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Arab gang held for Halhoul murder blamed on Jewish extremists

A GANG of Palestinian criminals has been arrested for allegedly murdering Halhoul resident Saman Azamareh, a crime that had been attributed to Jewish extremists.

A police spokesman said yesterday that three gang members, residents of the Hebron-area, were detained late Friday. One gang member is still at large, but his identity is known. Palestinian sources identified the detained as brothers Walid Shubak, 26, and Nidal Shubak, 27, and their cousin Sammy Shubak, 37.

"A great weight has been lifted from all of our hearts," Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday, upon hearing that Palestinians were allegedly responsible for the September 7 murder.

The gang dressed up in IDF uniforms, covered their faces with gas masks, and apparently also spoke Hebrew, in hopes of having Jews blamed, according to police sources.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe reacted to the police announcement by saying "this tells us that we are in urgent need of Palestinian police to prevent such criminal acts. Israeli soldiers don't care about the security of Palestinians, only of settlers."

Asked if there may not have

been a conspiracy by the townspeople to accuse Israelis, Natshe said that the blame must be put on the killers themselves, who did everything to give the impression that they were Israelis and "spoke Hebrew in a low voice, so that their accent was not detectable."

On the night of the incident, the gang raided five homes, the final home being that of Azamareh's family. The raids were carried out to rob the homes, police said. Azamareh, who returned from elsewhere while the gang was in his home, was fatally shot.

There were originally suspicious the gang was acting as a

BILL HUTMAN and JON IMMANUEL

"moral squad," and was looking for fellow Palestinians they suspected of wrongdoing, a senior police source said. Such forces have become common in the administered territories.

The suspects themselves deny this, and police have found little evidence to believe the raids were conducted for any other purpose than robbery, the source said.

However, police know of only 220 dinars that was taken from Azamareh's home. No other money or valuables were reported stolen from the other families,

the source said.

The murder had sparked fierce unrest in the town. Residents and Palestinian leaders charged Jewish extremists were responsible, and two Jewish extremist groups claimed responsibility. A day after the incident, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israelis were likely responsible.

But police in recent days discovered otherwise, leading to the three arrests.

Palestinian and police sources said the gang was well known in Halhoul for its criminal activity, including previous armed robberies.

Sammy Shubak served in the

Hebron police before the intifada, the sources said. His excellent knowledge of Hebrew is what helped trick the families whose homes were raided into thinking he was Israeli.

But the families also "did not tell us the whole truth," said a senior police officer involved in the investigation. "If we had known earlier the Hebrew spoken was that of an Arabic speaker, we might have gotten to the gang even sooner," the source said.

The list of names and addresses the gang carried was also aimed at making the families believe they were indeed soldiers in

search of wanted Palestinians, police sources said.

The police and General Security Service received a major break last week when they found the person who sold the weapon used in the murder to the gang. Channel 1 reported last night.

The murder weapon, IDF uniforms, and other equipment used by the gang has been recovered by police, according to the TV report.

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of the Police Investigations Unit, said police from the beginning had not ruled out that Palestinians might have been responsible.

(Continued on Page 2)



Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is greeted at Ben-Gurion Airport last night by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who delayed his departure for the talks to receive him. (Reuters)

Japanese PM Murayama arrives

JAPANESE Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama arrived here last night from Damascus as part of a week-long tour of the region. The two-day visit is the first ever by a Japanese premier.

Murayama's arrival reciprocates the visit to Japan last year by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and is considered by both Japanese and Israeli diplomatic circles as a sign of further improvement in relations between

the two countries.

Murayama is not believed to be carrying any messages from Syrian President Hafez Assad, but the issue of dispatching Japanese soldiers to the UN disengagement force stationed in the Golan Heights was discussed in Syria and will be discussed here.

Diplomats quoted by Reuters said Murayama was to have

passed on to Assad the Japanese government's approval to send a small logistic unit to serve as part of the United Nations' disengagement force on the Golan Heights.

While Murayama will not visit Orient House, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shuji Yanai is scheduled to meet Faisal Husseini there today. Murayama is being accompanied by 60 officials

from various ministries and 40 journalists. Before arriving in Israel he visited Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

The Japanese premier is not expected to discuss any specific joint economic projects, although economic ties are bound to be on the agenda. Israel has a trade surplus of almost \$20 million with Japan, importing \$963m. (mainly cars) and exporting \$982m.

Analysis, Page 2

Food, housing push CPI up by 1.2%

JOSE ROSENFIELD

THE Consumer Price Index jumped 1.2 percent last month, as fruit and vegetable and other food price rises were accompanied by higher housing costs fueled by a stronger dollar. August's increase was the highest this year.

Inflation is estimated to be running now at an annual rate of 9%, according to Central Bureau of Statistics price division director Rahamim Ozana.

Based on the first eight months of the year, the annual inflation rate is 6%, although Ozana cautioned that the figure is misleading since it includes a 30% drop in the price of fruits and vegetables from the beginning of the year, which followed a 56% jump in prices.

Prices increased 4% since the beginning of the year, while rising a steeper 6% when fruits and vegetables prices are excluded.

Bank Hapoalim chief economist Patricia Bar-Shavit said the re-inflating indexes this year will average about 1% a month, inflation has not returned to the two-digit levels of last year.

According to Bar-Shavit, basic inflation, which neutralizes volatile elements such as fruit and vegetable, housing and govern-

ment controlled prices, has remained stable at around 8% annually.

"So although we are not seeing inflation shrinking, we are not witnessing a sudden surge," he noted.

He rejected the Bank of Israel's proposal to lower next year's inflation goal below this year's range of between 8% and 11%, saying that it was not appropriate for an expanding economy that is still absorbing a significant number of immigrants. If housing prices remain somewhat stable, Bar-Shavit estimates that inflation will hover between 8% and 9% next year.

Bar-Shavit called on the government to immediately devalue the shekel by moving the "crawling peg's" midpoint up 6% to 8%. "We cannot wait for interest rates to drop for the devaluation to take place. The balance-of-payments problem demands that we take immediate action to avoid crisis solutions further down the road," he said.

Responding to the central bank's objection to one-time devaluations as inflationary, Bar-Shavit said that if it is done together with a program to make land available to the public so that housing prices will drop and reduce government spending, the devaluation's inflationary impact would be significantly reduced.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel took special pains on Friday not to give clear indications of whether the central bank would push up interest rates next month to counter the rapid rise in

(Continued on Page 12)

Serbs barely complying with UN ultimatum

News agencies

SARAJEVO — Serb forces moved some heavy weapons yesterday but had barely started to comply with a deadline this evening for "substantial progress" in pulling 200 of their big guns out of range of Sarajevo, the UN said. Only 12 weapons were actually confirmed to have been removed from the 20-km. heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo, the UN said.

A number of others were observed to be moving inside the zone, but in the past the Serbs have simply shufled weapons around to confound observers trying to count those actually withdrawn.

"I personally witnessed the departure of 30 heavy weapons, including tanks," said Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Briere, a UN spokesman who was in Serb-held Semizovac outside Sarajevo yesterday.

But Briere acknowledged that Semizovac is well inside the 20-km. exclusion zone and that he had not actually seen the weapons leave the restricted area.

Bosnian government troops, meanwhile, reached the outskirts of the northern Serb-held towns of Sanski Most and Prijedor, while some of them are already advancing on Banja Luka, the radio said, quoting an amateur radio operator in the region. The report could not be immediately confirmed.

(Continued on Page 12)

from various ministries and 40 journalists. Before arriving in Israel he visited Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

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Analysis, Page 2

Peres to present new Hebron proposal

FM, Arafat begin 'decisive' meeting

DAVID MAKOVSKY, ALON PINKAS and LAMIA LAHOUD

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres indicated last night that Israel would present a new proposal to the Palestinians concerning IDF redeployment in Hebron, one of the major issues blocking an agreement on the second phase of the Oslo accord.

"The Palestinians say Hebron is central to them," Peres told reporters before leaving for Taba, where he began talks at midnight with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. "Old solutions cannot be recycled. We need to find solutions that are not known in order to bridge a very difficult situation." He refused to give any details.

Peres also stressed "we will insist upon our security being at the center, in a clear effort to ensure that Palestinian cities do not become cities of refuge."

Peres, who held consultations earlier in the day with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said he had the authority to conclude negotiations and initial the Oslo-2 accord in Taba so a signing ceremony could take place Thursday in Washington. Foreign Ministry Director-General and chief negotiator Uri Savir said last night that the Taba meeting is "decisive."

The Likud yesterday demanded that any new agreement between Israel and the PLO be submitted to the Knesset before it is initiated. This must be done "in full, with all details disclosed, because we are now witnessing a situation in which Israel is repeatedly making concessions and capitulations with the sole objective being to speed up things so as to make it in the nick of time to the signing ceremony in Washington before the High Holy Days," the party statement said.

A Hamas leader, Ahmed Nimr, said yesterday that the Israel-PLO accord was "a sin" and urged Gazans to fight it. Nimr spoke to more than 1,500 Hamas activists during a march in memory of Ibrahim Naffar, 35, a Hamas member killed in an explosion in Gaza several days ago, witnesses told Reuters.

"We will not put down our weapons until our land is liberated," Nimr said, adding there could be "no coexistence with the Jews."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, speaking on Army Radio, predicted the dispute over Hebron would not be settled until the last minute because Arafat had to prove to the Palestinians that he

was fighting hard on the political charged issue.

"I won't be surprised if even at the signing ceremony in Washington, somebody takes out a pen and changes a sentence or two," Shahal said.

Shahal did say "there is a new offer," over Hebron, but would not elaborate.

Savir refused to say he was confident that an agreement would be reached, but he did say "a compromise would be reached" on the differences between the two sides regarding the extent of IDF redeployment in Judea and Samaria.

The Palestinians have been keen on trying to expand IDF redeployment to go beyond municipal boundaries of cities to include such places as Al-Bira, Beit Sahur, and Beit Jala.

The Israeli team's plane to Taba was delayed last night since Peres decided to wait at the airport to greet Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who had arrived earlier than expected from Damascus.

Energy Minister Gonen Segov accompanied Peres to Taba and will try to resolve remaining disputes on how to share the electricity grid in the territories.

The status of the Machpela Cave is still unclear. So far, Israel has refused to share security at the cave with the Palestinians and has insisted on maintaining the status quo at the site.

A senior defense source said last night that Israel will agree to a Palestinian police presence in the streets leading to the Machpela Cave.

The source, who was privy to the Rabin-Peres consultations, said no Palestinian police would be allowed in the cave's compound, but only "on the streets leading to the cave."

"Overall security remains Israel's responsibility," he added.

The source also said the Palestinian Authority would establish an executive committee that would carry out the Palestinian Council's policies in the self-rule areas.

The Palestinian negotiators said they expected the new Israeli proposal would help the two sides reach an agreement on Hebron. One negotiator said Israel is proposing a division of Hebron into areas with A, B and C status, as was done with the territories.

The Palestinians said they did not yet have much information about the details of such a division, but one negotiator said it was likely that Palestinian-populated areas of the city and roads which are only used by Palestinians would get the status of area A. This means the IDF would

withdraw from these areas, with the Palestinians taking over all responsibilities, including security.

Main roads used by both settlers and Palestinians and most of Hebron's old city would probably be area B, the negotiator said. In area B, Israel would remain responsible for overall security while the Palestinian Police will be in charge of public order.

The settlement in the old city and military installations would probably get the status of area C, which will remain under Israeli control, he added. Roads and villages around Hebron would be part of area B.

According to the Palestinian negotiator, Israel will probably agree to Arafat's demand for at least 200 lightly armed policemen in the city. He said the Palestinians need 200 policemen to take care of public order and security.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said Hebron residents would oppose such a compromise. He insisted that the IDF fully withdraw from Hebron, as it will from other cities in the territories. He said it was possible that the Hebron residents would boycott Palestinian general elections if there was no full redeployment from Hebron.

He said the Palestinians did not consider the settlers' enclave in the old city a settlement. "They have occupied five buildings in the old city, that's all," he said.

He suggested that an international force replace the IDF in the old city and serve as a buffer zone between the Palestinian Police and the settlers.

Like most Hebronites, Natshe rejects the present arrangements at the Machpela Cave and insists that Jews be barred from praying there.

He also rejects the PA's proposal under which Jews and Muslims would share the cave and the IDF and Palestinian Police would share security responsibility for the site.

Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Jericho, who is from Hebron, does not believe the Hebron residents will oppose the agreement once it is signed. "They will have to understand that we have been negotiating with the Israelis for the best possible terms. We cannot dictate all our demands although most of them are justified," he said.

Rajoub said he will support the autonomy agreement because he is a security officer who follows orders from the PA leadership. Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

Ben-Gurion airplane fuelers begin strike

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

DISRUPTIONS in flight schedules are expected at Ben-Gurion Airport this week, due to a strike by employees of Flight Services, the company in charge of fueling airplanes. The workers are protesting management's refusal to renew their wage agreements.

No disruptions should occur today because airport authorities were able to fuel planes in advance, Israel Radio reported.

Some 60,000 Israelis are due to leave the country by air before the eve of Rosh Hashana.

More disruptions are expected during the week, as part of the

sanctions planned by other airport workers, including El Al employees, in solidarity with the Flight Services' workers' struggle.

Histadrut trade union section chairman MK Amir Peretz yesterday warned that if Flight Services' management attempts to break the strike by fueling the planes with other workers, the airport workers will take more extreme measures.

The airport workers' unions include, in addition to El Al and Flight Services, Israel Aircraft

Industries, customs, Tamam (which provides food for airlines) and Maman, which processes cargo.

Peretz said the workers will make efforts not to cause damage to El Al.

Peretz charged Flight Services with irresponsibility and urged the company to enter into wage negotiations without any prior conditions as soon as possible.

The last wage agreement signed with the Flight Services workers was in 1989. During the

past six years, many of the company's workers were dismissed, while the remaining 120 had to provide fueling services for increasing numbers of flights.

The management rejected the Histadrut and workers' unions call to enter into negotiations, even after the Histadrut declared a labor dispute, as a prelude to an all-out strike, two weeks ago.

As a condition for entering into talks, Flight Services demanded that the workers withdraw their suit asking a court to order management to renew the wage agreement.

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Synagogues cutting Israel Bonds drives

Several US Orthodox congregations earmark funds to settlements instead

A FEW American Orthodox synagogues, who oppose the peace process and are angry at the Rabin government, are canceling their annual appeals for Israel Bonds, and plan to direct the funds raised to residents of Judea and Samaria instead.

The first synagogue to publicly protest, Congregation Sons of Israel in Cherry Hill, NJ, said its board canceled its bonds appeal because of police violence against "peaceful Israeli opposition demonstrators," as well as government "abandonment" of residents in the territories, Israeli aid to the PLO and the release of terrorists.

The board reportedly voted to turn over its proceeds in this year's holiday appeal to

the One Israel Fund's Yesha Heartland Campaign, to serve the Jewish residents of the territories. Last year, the synagogue raised \$100,000 for Israel Bonds.

This is not the first time that opponents of the Rabin government have suggested that American Jews could "vote with their wallets." Previously, some Americans questioned why Jews should contribute to the United Jewish Appeal, which focuses its allocations on programs within the pre-1967 border.

Reached Friday as he was traveling in

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

the US. Yechiel Leiter, director of the foreign desk of Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said American Jews' contributions should not be an "either-or" proposition. "We've never seen [philanthropic] support as being exclusive," he said.

Further, he said: "The last thing we need is to destroy [Israel-Diaspora] institutions that have been loyal and noble for the last 40 years. We have to maintain the relationships and keep them strong."

It is not known how much money Ortho-

dox congregations generally raise in their Israel Bonds appeals, which traditionally take place on Yom Kippur.

Raphael Rothstein, an Israel Bonds spokesman in New York, said Friday that 500 Orthodox synagogues are expected to participate in the bonds drive this year.

"This is a small defection," he said of the synagogues that have pulled out. "We're not political. This is a misguided action."

The Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America called on the observant community to maintain support for Israel Bonds, saying any diminution of the campaign would imply that support for Israel is waning.

Japan between a rock and a hard place over Iran

ANALYSIS

MIKE JACOBS

AS Tomiichi Murayama makes the first-ever visit to Israel by a Japanese prime minister, analysts have been busy themselves with the links between Tokyo's vital commercial concerns, its global ambitions, the Middle East, and Israel's influence in Washington.

Most dominant, however, is the question of Japanese companies dealing with Iran.

Last week, Senator Alfonse D'Amato tried to strike an indirect blow against Middle East terrorism by introducing a bill to impose effective trade sanctions against foreign companies selling oil-associated equipment to Iran.

"The Iranian regime is seeking to export terrorism throughout the Middle East and beyond. It is also seeking to build a nuclear bomb. This cannot be allowed to happen. If we deprive them of the money to pay for these aggressive acts, the world will be safer," D'Amato said.

This bill would have serious consequences for international companies doing business in oil expertise and equipment with Teheran. Japan's Mitsui Corp., which has vast American interests, is also a huge supplier of technological and industrial equipment to Iran.

D'Amato's bill would mean companies like Mitsui would come under severe sanctions if found to be trading in supplies for the Iranian oil industry. It would no longer be able to export anything from the United States and the movement of its executives across US borders would be prohibited. It would of course forfeit all trade with US government agencies.

Surprisingly, Mitsui is also one of the top exporters of goods made in the USA and its American organization must be very apprehensive of the future trading plans of its counterpart in Iran.

"We're very worried indeed, but there's little we can do at the moment," a Mitsui official in Tokyo told *The Jerusalem Post*. "This bill may well cause severe

strain between the US and its trading allies - and it may cause the collapse of moderation within the Iranian government."

The official added that he hoped the upcoming US elections might encourage President Bill Clinton to sidestep the bill by suggesting a less severe alternative.

But as D'Amato sees it: "American companies must stop trading with Iran and foreign companies must understand if they are going to help Iran in energy development, they will not be able to trade with the United States either."

He is naturally supported by AIPAC and all American Jewish organizations, especially those in his home state of New York.

Israel's security is of serious concern to D'Amato. As the representative of a huge Jewish constituency for more than a decade, he knows a popular cause when he sees one, and he has been faithful to this task since first taking office.

Earlier this year, D'Amato submitted a bill for sanctions against traders with Iran, only to be preempted by Clinton's ban on trade with the pariah nation.

D'Amato's new proposal may narrow the net to catch only those trading with Teheran in the oil-related industries, but for a nation like Iran whose lifeblood flows through oil pipelines, the mesh of the net is wide enough to entangle such giants as Japan's Mitsui and Germany's Siemens.

In Japan, when both sides of a fence seem equally hazardous, the trick is to remain delicately perched.

"There's nothing anyone can do except sit and wait for the US politicians to act," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official told the *Post*. "After that, Japanese companies are on their own in deciding a course of action."

"Choosing the least costly option would seem to be the only way out if the Iran bill is legislated." The writer reports for *The Jerusalem Post* from Japan.

New car alarm designed to protect settlers

HERB KEINON

MA'ALEH Adumim and Ariel residents have not yet heard about reported plans to test a special car alarm system designed to protect them while driving in the territories after an IDF pullback.

According to an Israel Radio report, settlers will have special buttons installed in their cars which when pushed alert security headquarters that the driver is in trouble.

The car's exact location will then appear on a computerized map and a two-way communication channel will be opened with the driver, the report said.

However, Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benay Kashriel said that the Defense Ministry has been talking about the project for months, but as yet has not allocated funds.

"This type of thing is good for places like Hebron and Gush Etzion, areas deep in the territories," Kashriel said, "but I doubt many people in Ma'aleh Adumim will have them installed."

According to the plan, resi-

dents will pay between NIS 30-40 a month to have the buttons placed in their car. The alarms will be hooked up to a switchboard in Ma'aleh Adumim, and if the driver is in trouble he will push the button, and have about 10 seconds to send a message.

Ideally, the person at the switchboard will then dispatch an emergency vehicle to assist the person in distress. "A lot depends on the person at the switchboard," Kashriel said.

"This is just an attempt by Rabin to show that he is providing settlers with security," Kashriel said. "If he really wants to provide security, he should stop with these synthetic solutions, and not pull the IDF out of the [Palestinian] cities."

According to Kashriel, Ma'aleh Adumim was selected as a site to start the project because it is a regional center with ambulances and police. A number of other settlements in the region will also be hooked up to the Ma'aleh Adumim switchboard.

Commander of Erez checkpoint suspected of issuing false permits

ALON PINKAS

THE commander of the Erez checkpoint coordination and liaison unit, Col. Ami Nagar, who is suspected of issuing illegal entry and employment permits to Palestinians from Gaza, has taken a one-month leave of absence, after which he will be relieved of duty, the army confirmed last night.

Nagar is being investigated by a joint army-police criminal investigation team for alleged involvement in issuing the permits, for financial and other benefits.

Nagar vehemently denied the allegations last week and claimed that the publicizing of the

probe by the army constituted a violation of his rights, since he has not yet been indicted.

A Gaza man was arrested in connection with the case on August 17, and last week a district court judge authorized an extension of his remand and permitted publication of details of the affair.

In a meeting held Thursday, the coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj.-Gen. Oren Shohor, demanded Nagar step down himself, but Nagar refused. In a compromise move, Shohor decid-

ed that Nagar would take a one-month leave and not return to his post. An army statement said that after a month, Nagar's future in the military will be reviewed.

The Military Police's criminal investigation department and the Israel Police's central criminal investigation unit are cooperating in the investigation, which began after intelligence leads proved accurate and an exchange of money was detected.

Only after the evidence is thoroughly reviewed will the task force recommend to the judge advocate-general whether to indict Nagar.



South African Chief of Staff Gen. G.L. Meirig meets with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem on Friday. Meirig's visit is the first public visit here by a South African chief of staff. (Brian Hendler)

S. African FM visits Orient House

SOUTH African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo paid an unannounced visit yesterday to Orient House, the PLO headquarters in eastern Jerusalem, and met with the top PLO official in the city, Faisal Husseini.

Husseini said he briefed Nzo on the talks with Israel and on "escalating Israeli measures against Palestinian institutions in the city."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Shek had no comment on Nzo's Orient House visit.

On Friday, Nzo visited the Gaza Strip and met

PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

He also met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and invited him on behalf of President Nelson Mandela to visit South Africa. Rabin's office did not say whether a date had been set.

Nzo told Rabin in their meeting that South Africa is an enthusiastic supporter of the peace process.

Rabin voiced concern over South Africa's growing trade relations with Iran, saying Iran poses a threat to the peace of the Middle East and the entire world. (AP)

HALHOUL

(Continued from Page 1)

"We were investigating all major avenues, and not paying attention to all the rumors and reports about this group or that group being the culprits," Levy said.

Sammy Shubak's family denied he was guilty and said he should be released from prison.

"If he is guilty we shall punish him," his father said.

Sources in Halhoul said the townspeople were reluctant to believe that Israelis were not involved, and thought the raids may have been a "joint venture of Israeli extremists and collaborators."

Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi, the coordinator of opposition factions in the Knesset, demanded that Peres and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid "officially and publicly apologize forthwith to the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria from the Knesset rostrum for having accused them of the Halhoul murder. If these ministers fail to apologize for the blood libel, then they should immediately resign."

He added that if no apology is made soon, he would "sue both ministers for libel motivated by the political aim of maligning and demonizing the settlers."

Sarah Honig contributed to this report.



KEREN HAYESOD

We are saddened by the passing of

ANTONIETA FEFER ז"ל

and express our sincerest condolences to
Leon Fefer and family



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Children: Hilary, Laurie and Sheila

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We mourn the passing of

PINI ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, September 17, 1995,
at 4:00 p.m. on Kibbutz Ketura

A bus to the funeral ceremony will depart at 8:00 a.m. from the
home of Clara Lutman, Rehov Pe'er 43, Haifa. The bus will
pick up additional mourners at 9:30 a.m. at the northern train
station in Tel Aviv (by the taxi stand).

Shiv'a will be held on Kibbutz Ketura and at the home of
Clara Lutman beginning from the start of Monday evening.

With deep sorrow:
The Lutman Family
The Lefer Family
The Berman Family
Belt Ketura



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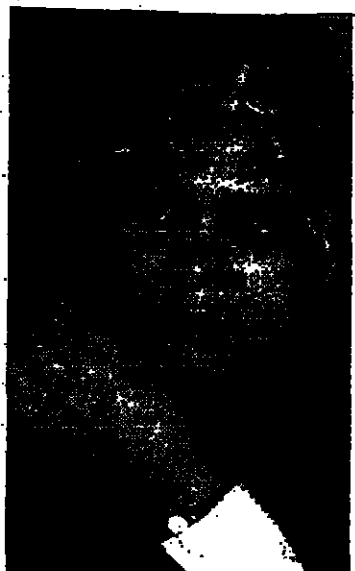
מיקוד 1995

Ramos to appeal UAE death sentence for maid

MANILA (Reuters) - President Fidel Ramos said yesterday he would personally appeal to United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan al-Nahayan to save a teenaged Filipino maid condemned to death by a UAE court.

The verdict caused shock in this largely Catholic country and a Filipino diplomat suggested the recent burning by demonstrators in Manila of a UAE flag might have aggravated the case of the maid, Sarah Balabagan.

A three-man UAE court sentenced Balabagan to death for murdering her employer, Almas Mohammed al-Baloshi. She testified that Baloshi had raped her. "I shall not hesitate to bring this case... to the personal attention of the President of the United Arab Emirates if the decision of the UAE lower court is sustained by the UAE court of appeals," Ramos said in a statement, adding "I



Convicted teen murderer Sarah Balabagan (Reuters)

am deeply saddened by this unfortunate turn of events."

Ramos said he had ordered the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi to appeal the decision and explore "other diplomatic and legal options to obtain a favourable ruling for Ms Balabagan."

Radio and TV stations interrupted programs to announce news of the sentence. Some demanded the resignation of Philippine ambassador to the UAE Roy Seneres.

Senator Ernesto Herrera cautioned against over-reaction. "I understand that the Emir has shown more compassion in the past and the royalty might be more receptive to appeals for clemency from friendly governments," he said in a statement.

"The UAE is not Singapore," Herrera added, referring to the hanging by Singapore in March of Filipino maid Flor Contemplacion for double murder.

Egyptian extremists: Crackdown aimed at ousting us from elections

HEIKSTEP, Egypt (Reuters) - Leaders of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, on trial in a military court on charges of plotting against the government, said yesterday the crackdown was premeditated by the authorities to prevent them from contesting the November general elections.

President Hosni Mubarak, accusing the country's largest fundamentalist group of funding armed militants seeking to bomb out his government and install a strict Islamic state, issued a decree last month referring the 49 to a military court.

They are lawyers, former members of parliament, university teachers, scholars, doctors and engineers, including Essam Eryan, deputy secretary-general of the Medical Association and Mohamed Habib, a prominent academic at Assiut University.

"This is a premeditated act by the government to prevent us from taking part in the elections," Eryan told journalists.

The indictment sheet said the accused established the Brotherhood in violation of the law and aiming to disrupt the constitution. They were also charged with creating a body

with branches throughout Egypt.

"The members held secret meetings in which they exchanged ideas that oppose the constitution. They have also recruited new people after persuading them of their ideology," it said.

Habib said: "This is a government campaign on us to force us not to run in the elections." Eryan and Habib were both members of parliament between 1987 and 1990 in alliance with the Islamist-dominated Labour Party.

Members of the Brotherhood cannot stand for election in the name of the organization but in previous elections they have stood under the umbrella of recognized parties, with other Brotherhood members helping to organize their campaigns.

The accused, many wearing traditional white Islamic robes, or gallabiyas, stood in their iron cages but unlike violent militants they did not shout anti-government or Islamic slogans.

"The government is targeting them because it fears their rising and wide popularity...it is afraid they will win the forthcoming elections," lawyer Abdel-Halim Ramadan said.

This is the first mass trial of Brotherhood members since 1965 and confirms the government's determination to clamp down on the organization which was founded in 1928.

The Brotherhood has been officially banned in Egypt since 1954. Under President Gamal Abdel Nasser a military court executed Sayyed Qotb in 1964, the leader of the organization.

The Muslim Brotherhood has won control of the lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers syndicates in former elections, prompting the government to introduce a law in 1993 which made it much harder for them to take over syndicate leadership.

The indictment sheet said 46 of the group were leaders who formed a Shura advisory council which issues orders, provides funding to achieve the aim of the organization.

It did not include any charge of violence, murder, use of arms, offenses normally referred to military courts.

The court adjourned the case to September 30 defying calls by defendant lawyers to postpone it until October 3 when a court would look into their appeal to reverse Mubarak's decree.

Colin Powell starts book tour; plans for White House secret

MCLEAN, Va (Reuters) - Retired General Colin Powell, America's favorite non-presidential candidate, yesterday kicked off a campaign-style, 26-city book tour with backers hoping it would lead to a run for the White House.

Powell, 58, who as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the top US military officer during the Gulf War, has not declared his intention to run for president in 1996 but has caused a stir in opinion polls, with one showing he could win the office.

About 3,000 fans jammed into a large bookstore and lined up for blocks as he launched his book-promotion tour in this wealthy Washington suburb by appearing to sign his autobiography, *My American Journey*.

The tour is due to end October 30, after which he expects to make his presidential plans known. "Looking forward to a great four-week tour," Powell told dozens of reporters.

He said he will decide whether to enter the presidential fray after consulting with his family. His wife has said she does not want him to run.

"At the end of the day it is a decision I will have to make with my family, not on the basis of how many times I've been asked the question or what other people wish me to do," said Powell, dressed in a navy blue suit and tie.

For two years, he said, he had been devoting his time to writing

the book. He retired in 1993 after 35 years as a soldier.

"I have a deep concern about the country. I have some ideas about the country, I'll be sharing those ideas... and then I will find out after the book tour what the best way is to serve the country in some capacity," Powell said.

"The alternatives available to me are not just to run for office or not run for office," he continued. "I do want to serve the nation in some capacity."

For now Powell refuses to say whether he will heed the advice of such backers as New York City public relations man Tex McCrary to run in 1996 as a man that polls say is one of the most popular and respected men in America.

McCrary takes credit for helping persuade another former general, World War Two hero Dwight Eisenhower, to move from the presidency of Columbia University to run for the US presidency in 1952. Eisenhower was elected in 1952 and 1956.

A Time Magazine/CNN poll released Friday showed that Powell could beat Clinton as a Republican, or beat Clinton and front-running Republican Bob Dole as an independent.

A Newsweek poll of 566 voters released yesterday, however, showed Powell finishing third as an independent, winning 27 percent support compared with 35 percent for Clinton and 29 percent for Dole. The poll had a margin of error of five percent.



Stephen Hawking and his former nurse Elaine Mason pose on their wedding day. (Reuters)

Physicist Stephen Hawking marries former nurse

CAMBRIDGE (Reuters) - Wheelchair-bound British physicist Stephen Hawking and his former nurse had their marriage blessed in church yesterday, a day after a civil ceremony.

Hawking, 53, author of the best-selling *A Brief History of Time*, married Elaine Mason six years after leaving his first wife and three children after 26 years.

Mason, 45, was hired by Hawking's wife Jane to help provide round-the-clock care for the scientist. He is crippled with the muscle-wasting Lou Gehrig's Disease and can speak only through a voice synthesizer which Mason's former husband designed for him.

Friends from the science world packed into the small Cambridge church for the ceremony with Hawking reading his replies through a

program entered earlier into his voice computer. The couple posed smiling for photographers after leaving the church to the sounds of Offenbach's *Galop from Orpheus* - better known as the "Can-Can".

Hawking, a professor at Cambridge University, gained international prominence in 1988 with his book about the origins of the universe which sold 25 million copies.

Vietnam ventures in trouble

HANOI (AP) - An Australian firm has pulled out of a major investment project, an official report said yesterday, the second withdrawal of a foreign company from Vietnam in as many weeks.

P and O Australia cited a lack of progress in negotiations with its local partner over a planned port construction project in southern Vietnam, the report said.

France's Total SA said on Sept. 6 that it was no longer planning to help build a billion dollar oil refinery because the remote site chosen by Vietnam's government made little economic sense.

P and O Australia announced its decision one year after forming a joint venture to develop a \$19 million container terminal at Ho Chi Minh City's Ben Nghe port, the state-run Vietnam News reported.

"Despite many attempts at meaningful negotiations... no serious progress has been made for eight months," the report quoted an unnamed official of the company as saying. P and O had no alternative but to withdraw from the project, the official said.

Company representatives were unavailable for comment yesterday.

The collapse of the Ben Nghe joint venture underscores the problems some foreign investors have had implementing projects in Vietnam. Their experience offers a sobering counterpoint to the upbeat official reports about Vietnam's streamlined investment procedures and rising levels of foreign commitments.

Pope makes long awaited trip to South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Pope John Paul II landed in South Africa yesterday and kissed the soil of a country he long refused to officially visit in protest against the old apartheid regime.

Opening the most symbolic leg of his three-nation trip to Africa, the pope stepped off a Cameroon Airlines 747 and was presented with a basket of earth by orphans representing South Africa's black, white, mixed-race and Indian racial groups.

He leaned over and kissed the soil, then chatted briefly with the four children before turning to accept the welcome of President Nelson Mandela. Since undergoing hip surgery last year, the pope no longer physically bends to the tarmac to plant his customary kiss on the ground when arriving in a country for the first time.

The gesture caps a rapprochement between the Vatican and

South Africa since white-minority rule ended with relative calm last year in Mandela's election as the nation's first black president.

The plane arrived as intermittent showers broke into sunny weather. Rain is seen as a good omen in southern Africa, suffering from a devastating drought.

Mandela, wearing a suit instead of his usual brightly colored shirt, said in his welcoming speech the arrival of the pope symbolized South Africa's new order.

"To say this visit is long overdue is to pay tribute to your own abhorrence of the system of apartheid," Mandela said. "You delayed your visit to this country because you viewed with disdain a system that treated God's children as lesser human beings."

After meeting politicians and churchmen in a receiving line, John Paul said in a speech that Africa was being transformed and the expectations of millions

of human beings could not be ignored.

"They constitute a moral challenge for us all," the pope said. "That is why my present journey holds particular significance."

The pontiff singled out Mandela and former President F.W. de Klerk for praise in negotiating the peaceful end to white minority rule, and urged South Africans of all races to come together to build a successful multiracial democracy.

"The epochal change for which South Africa is striving will require the best that each one can give in the service of the common good," John Paul said in the speech delivered in English and Afrikaans. "It will demand much hard work and many sacrifices."

Mandela and the pope then headed to a reception at the president's official residence in Pretoria. They were later to dine at a banquet at the Vatican's

UK TV facing obsolescence

CAMBRIDGE (Reuters) - British television, which often boasts it is the best in the world, risks "genteel decay and decline" if it doesn't grasp new global opportunities, a top executive warned.

Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada Group Plc, the country's largest commercial TV company, told a convention British TV could end up like a "peeling boarding house in an out-of-the-way English seaside resort".

The sector was currently "too fragmented, too parochial" to wield any real international influence, Robinson told the biennial convention of the Royal Television Society.

"We are small players. Wouldn't it be great to buy Disney? That would be the right move - but it's not realistic."

ON VIDEO

DARK SITES

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Women adopt hotly disputed declaration on rights

BEIJING (Reuters) - The world women's conference approved a hotly disputed blueprint on Friday, setting forth a plan of battle for sexual equality into the 21st century that enshrined women's rights as human rights but avoided commitments to pay for action.

The UN Fourth World Women's Conference passed its Platform for Action and Beijing Declaration after a cliffhanging finale that pitted an informal bloc of the Vatican and conservative Islamists against Europe and South Africa in 11th-hour wrangling until dawn over the fine print.

"We now need a tidal change," Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland told the closing ceremony. "Women will no longer accept the role of second-rate citizens."

An overnight compromise enabled proponents and opponents of new sexual rights to claim victory at the world's biggest gathering of women, launched on August 30 with a spirited grassroots forum.

More than 30,000 women converged on a tent city erected in a Beijing suburb where they met and talked, danced, wept and demonstrated for 10 days to lobby

for their rights in the Platform for Action - despite rain, heavy-handed Chinese police surveillance and host-country curbs on free speech.

The event, held once in 10 years, concluded with the more solemn United Nations conference and its milestone declaration.

"Women's rights are human rights," the declaration said.

The platform says women should not be punished for abortions in countries where it is illegal, offers protection against rape and war crimes, calls for a more powerful role in politics, recog-

nizes unpaid labor and goes into battle against poverty.

"I believe firmly that if we all do our little bit, no matter how small it is, we shall succeed in making even the impossible, possible," Secretary General Gertrude Mongella concluded.

"As our Chinese hosts say, the journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step," she said, declaring an irreversible social revolution to a standing ovation.

However, some delegates swiftly voiced doubts about the power of a platform for action that urges governments to act but does not bind them to do

anything.

The Vatican launched a stinging attack on the refusal of developed countries to open their purses to fund specific implementation of the platform.

"Surely we must do more for the girl child in poor nations than give lip service to providing access to education, health and social services while carefully avoiding any concrete commitment of new and additional resources to that end," Mary Ann Glendon, first woman leader of a delegation from the Holy See, told the closing plenary session.

The declaration, seen as a clar-

ion call for women to fight for their rights in the next decade, demands empowerment of women, equality and the end of all violence against women, but does not say how all this will be achieved.

"If Nairobi was a compass, Beijing is a detailed map," US delegate Melinda Kimble said, referring to the 1985 conference.

Deep divisions that marked the 12-day conference persisted to the end with 41 of 189 delegate nations adding reservations to the document - most on a single health paragraph that gives women greater freedoms to choose

abortion and contraception.

The nuncio of Pope John Paul II vented fury over ambiguity of the language, warning against wording on sexual rights that could be interpreted to endorse abortion and homosexuality.

After all reservations had been voiced, Chinese president of the conference Chen Muhua slammed her gavel on the document to approve the cocktail of compromise and promise.

Delegates celebrated passage of the platform with hugs and applause and cheers.

Governments weasel out of women's platform

BEIJING (AP) - No sooner had delegates approved an ambitious UN blueprint for achieving women's equality than governments began opting out of its obligations.

No duplicity or hypocrisy here. It's part of a UN-ordained method, known as expressing "reservations," for achieving consensus while allowing disagreement with policy guidelines.

The 189 governments at the UN women's conference adopted its platform for action and declaration of principles by consensus. No vote was taken.

Many of the more than 40 countries that took exception to parts of the document began their speeches by saluting that spirit of cooperation.

"My delegation submits to the consensus underpinning the declaration and platform," a representative from Ethiopia said in a typical prelude before voicing reservations. Speakers during the 12-day conference's final session were not identified by name, but by country.

Ethiopia objected to what it felt was the platform's emphasis on sexual freedom at the expense of health, education and other issues.

Predominantly Roman Catholic and Islamic countries made up most of the dissenters. Those governments previously said they disagreed with the references to sexual freedom because they felt

it encouraged promiscuity, undermined the traditional family and condoned abortion.

In UN parlance, reservations allow governments to announce they will not abide by parts of the document without rejecting it in whole. The platform is not binding but serves as a guide to governments and voluntary organizations.

While some delegations objected to specific sections, many Muslim countries, such as Kuwait, said they would reject all parts contrary to Islamic law and custom.

The Philippines and several other delegations noted that abortion was illegal in their countries and would continue to be so, despite the platform's call for adequate reproductive health care.

During earlier sessions, when countries stated their intention to "reserve," some delegations said the large number of objections would weaken the final document.

"I suspect a lot of the states here weren't really reserving. They just wanted to be visible," said Patricia Licuanan, the head of the conference's main committee and of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

"Most of the platform stands as such," Licuanan said. "The sections referred to are the sections you wouldn't expect those specific countries which made reservations to do anything about."

Angry disabled women demand conference refund

BEIJING (AP) - Angered by the lack of access and the extra fees they had to pay, disabled women at the World Conference on Women demanded a refund yesterday from the United Nations.

"We feel very bitter because our exclusion has been so blatant," said Claire Glasman of Britain, who uses a wheelchair.

Several dozen disabled people attended the UN women's conference and about 200 participat-

ed in the companion gathering of private women's groups, called the NGO Forum. But lack of accessibility meant they missed most of the meetings. Stairs, steep ramps, and the lack of elevators, braille materials or sign language translations all limited their participation. Glasman said. Hotels in Huairou, the site of NGO Forum, had no facilities for the disabled, and participants were forced to stay in Beijing.



Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, center, embraces Secretary General Gertrude Mongella at Friday's closing session of the UN World Conference on Women. (Reuters)

Hurricane Marilyn slams Caribbean

SAN JUAN (AP) - Hurricane Marilyn tore through Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands yesterday, tipping roofs from homes, toppling a radio tower and sending thousands of people scrambling for shelter from its raging winds.

Flinging debris and sometimes spewing lightning, Marilyn stripped homes of their roofs, toppled a radio tower and battered beaches with 3-meter seas. Winds traveled at 160 kph.

The fourth hurricane to hit the Caribbean in as many weeks, Marilyn struck just as islanders were repairing damage wrought by Hurricane Luis with its 225 kph winds last week.

President Clinton declared the US Virgin Islands a disaster area, making it eligible for federal emergency aid. A US Air Force reconnaissance plane flying over St. Thomas reported very severe damage, according to the National Weather Service in Miami.

Growing in strength and size, Mari-

lyn swept over St. Thomas, St. John and Puerto Rico. Then it pounded the island of Culebra, 32 km from the port, of Fajardo.

"There are houses down everywhere, the roads are washed out, a lot of boats are all over the place, the phone keeps sizzling out. The island is devastated," said a caller on Culebra who got through to a local radio station.

She said hillside homes had been washed away and the wooden homes that dotted them were leveled. Cars had washed up against her backyard, presumably carried by a swollen river nearby.

Police Lt. Julio Soto said the winds had lifted two light aircraft from Culebra airport and deposited them on the roof of the Happy Landings restaurant, at the end of the runway. Four more airplanes were smashed against the restaurant fence. Soto said in a telephone interview.

Marilyn brushed past San Juan, Puer-

to Rico early yesterday. Its center was 112 km northwest of the capital and moving to the northwest at 16 kph - away from the Caribbean, said the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The storm's top sustained winds increased to 177 kph; hurricane-force winds extended 56 km from its center, while tropical storm-force winds extended outward 225 km.

In San Juan, Claudio Sosa Morales, 17, was electrocuted while helping a neighbor remove a TV antenna from the roof of her home before the storm hit. The antenna touched power lines, said Freddy Marrero, a spokesman for the Electric Power Authority.

Little damage was initially reported in the capital, where residents had boarded up their homes and businesses. About 11,000 people in Puerto Rico spent the night in public shelters, while 200,000 people were without electricity.

Women's platform

THE following are the key points of the Platform for Action adopted by the UN Fourth World Conference on Women:

• **Sex:** Women have the right to decide freely all matters related to their sexuality and child-bearing. The platform condemns forced sterilizations and forced abortions.

• **Rape in war:** The systematic rape of women in wartime is a crime and must be immediately stopped. Perpetrators are war criminals and must be punished.

• **Children's rights:** Children have the right to privacy when receiving health information and services, but their rights must be balanced against their parents' rights and duties. Whose rights dominate will vary according to the child's maturity.

• **Women in power:** Governments, parties and the entire private sector should "build a critical mass" of women leaders, executives and managers in strategic, decision-making positions.

• **Female inheritance:** Governments should guarantee women equal rights to inherit, although they may not necessarily inherit the same amount as sons in every instance.

• **The family:** It is the basic unit of society and should be strengthened, protected and supported. Various forms of the family exist in different cultural, political and social systems. Women must not suffer discrimination because they are mothers.

• **Peace-making:** Governments and the private sector should ensure women are equally represented in all national and international bodies that set peace-keeping policies and in all stages of peace negotiations.

• **Violence:** Marital rape, genital mutilation of girls, attacks on women because their dowries are too small, domestic battering and sexual harassment at work are all forms of violence against women and violations of their human rights.

• **Violence:** Marital rape, genital mutilation of girls, attacks on women because their dowries are too small, domestic battering and sexual harassment at work are all forms of violence against women and violations of their human rights.

Bride drops dead hour after wedding

PAPHOS (Reuters) - A young British bride who dropped dead less than an hour after her wedding in a Cyprus holiday resort died from a brain hemorrhage, the state pathologist said.

After an hour-long post mortem examination on 24-year-old Joanna Cook, pathologist Eleni Antoniou yesterday ruled she died from a hemorrhage, caused by a defect she was born with.

Cook, a blonde sales assistant from Enfield in England, died less than an hour after her marriage to printer Kerion Leybourne, 26, also from Enfield, at Paphos town hall on Thursday afternoon.

She collapsed in front of her husband, relatives, and guests as the wedding party was on its way to a reception at a Paphos hotel.

Cook was dead on arrival at the hospital despite frantic attempts by doctors to resuscitate her.

Her parents said she had been on medication for strong migraines, police said.

Cook's wedding to Leybourne was the third Thursday at Paphos' neo-classical town hall.

"They looked so happy, the two of them were very touched," said Attaliois.

He said up to five couples a day were married there in September.

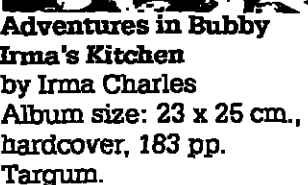
"It is one of the busiest months." Most of the couples come from Britain, Israel and Europe.

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Ex-Japanese FM Watanabe, 72

TOKYO (Reuters) - Michio Watanabe, a former Japanese foreign minister and contender for the office of prime minister, died of heart failure at a Tokyo hospital. He was 72.

Watanabe was for years an outspoken leader of the business-oriented Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which governed Japan for 38 consecutive years before falling from power in 1993. The LDP is now a senior partner in the ruling coalition.

One of his last major tasks was to lead a delegation of LDP

members to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, in March.

There, he signed an agreement with his North Korean counterparts urging the governments of Japan and North Korea to resume talks, stalled since 1992, on normalizing ties.

Watanabe, first elected to the Lower House in 1963, served in a variety of government posts, including deputy prime minister, minister of finance and minister of international trade and industry.

Russian hacker fights extradition in London

LONDON (Reuters) - A British defense lawyer tried to persuade a court in London against extraditing a 28-year-old Russian computer expert accused by US authorities of fraudulently transferring funds from Citibank accounts.

The Russian, Vladimir Levin, who was arrested on March 3 at London's Heathrow Airport, has been accused of hacking into Citibank's US computer systems from a laptop computer in St. Petersburg and illegally transferring out \$12 million.

Levin also allegedly withdrew money from big companies accounts, including some held by the Philippine National Bank International Finance Ltd.



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הספד

Shofars vs. balloons – the blow by blow

TELL ME WHY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Why is it that some people are incapable of blowing up a balloon (including non-smokers), while others just can't blow a shofar? David, Beit Zayit.

Dr. Ditsa Gross, head of the respiratory rehabilitation clinic at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, replies:

Blowing a shofar and blowing up a balloon involve two different techniques: the first requires sharp, quick exhalation, while the second should be done slowly as there is counterpressure from air already in the balloon. Elderly people or those with respiratory problems may get tired and be unable to expel enough air. But healthy people, including children, may not take enough air in when they inhale – because they were never taught how to do this.

Both tasks require strong respiratory muscles (the intercostal muscles, abdominal muscles and the diaphragm). There must be coordination among all of these, and also between the lips and the tongue. If this is lacking, the person blowing up the balloon or blowing the shofar may let too much air escape instead of the air reaching its target.

Every winter, I buy at an auto supply store an impregnated cloth that, if wiped on the inside of a car's windows, reduces misting. It works quite well. When the windows are wet, wiping it makes bubbles as if it were soap. How does the cloth work? What's in it? If it's only soap, can one make it at home? Moshe, Jerusalem.

Dr. Avraham Aserin, a researcher at the Hebrew University's Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry, answers:

Such cloths are impregnated either with silicone oil or propylene glycol (a type of alcohol). These chemicals, when rubbed onto glass, form a transparent, protective layer and prevent water molecules from attaching themselves. In effect, they compete with the mist and hold the fort – until they break down and have to be replaced by a new application (about once a week). If you saw bubbles, it's possible that soap was added to either of these.

You can buy silicone oil and



A good shofar blower must coordinate mouth and abdominal respiratory muscles to achieve a clear sound. (Werner Braun)

periodically apply a bit to the windows of your car with a cloth.

Why, when people walk, do they inevitably swing each hand in the opposite direction of the foot on the same side? Sharon, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Yoni Yarom, director of sports medicine at the Wingate Institute of Physical Education, explains:

This is due to biomechanical reasons. The body balances better when the arm on one side and the leg on the opposite side move forward together. If you swing the arm contralaterally, in this way, you maintain balance and forward momentum. If you were to swing the arm and leg on the same side simultaneously, you would proba-

bly swivel or lose balance.

Doing so is a reflex or instinct. Animals usually do it, too. When horses, for example, walk or trot they move contralaterally. However, when they gallop and need high speed, they move the front legs together and then the back legs together. This aids momentum.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, c/o Jerusalem Post Science & Technology Reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your first name and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THE National Science Museum's Olympiada isn't as physically exhausting as the Olympic Games, but the competition had participants' brains working at full capacity. Six teenage finalists who had studied some 250 pages of college-level material on complex scientific principles competed for top prizes.

Yuval Katzir, a 14-year-old Netanya resident who has just entered the ORT Gutman Comprehensive High School, won top honors and NIS 7,500 in prize money. The quiz, held at the end of August at Neveh Ilan, was broadcast on Educational TV last Thursday.

Yuval, the son of a computer programmer and an arts teacher, hasn't even begun studying physics in school, but the taste of that subject and chemistry that he got while preparing for the quiz was tantalizing. "I don't know if I want to be a scientist, but I am really interested in learning science," he said after winning his prize, which he will spend on a European trip with his mother.

National Science Museum founder and director Prof. Zvi Dori was pleased by the success of the quiz, in which some 1,500 youngsters in Israel and abroad participated in the earliest stages.

"We started it in 1989, but this year we decided to include young Jews from abroad. I went to Jewish communities in New York and Boston to arouse interest. I thought about 50 would register, but we were amazed to get 350 Diaspora applicants."

"Next year, Diaspora participants will come from throughout North America; there are already 4,000 foreign and 1,500 local applicants. In 1998, to mark Israel's 50th anniversary, we intend to have participants from around



Yuval Katzir flashes a smile after winning the National Science Museum's Olympiada quiz.

the world."

Written tests on basic science knowledge were taken by 15 to 16 year olds here and abroad. Those with the highest scores were given written material for study on the theme of this year's quiz, "To See the Light." This theme, says Dori, touches a variety of sciences, including physics, electromagnetics, biology and the basics

of photography.

The NIS 350,000 cost of the entire process was covered by the Education Ministry, the Science and Arts Ministry, the Jewish Agency and the Haifa Municipality.

The semifinals, including 10 from abroad, were invited to an all-expenses-paid, 10-day summer science camp at the Tech-

nion, under whose aegis the science museum operates. Of 25 Israelis, fewer than half a dozen were girls, compared to three girls among the 10 Americans who reached this stage. Among the six finalists competing in the actual quiz, one – Miran Snir of Jerusalem – is a girl, and she came in fourth.

Yuval says he enjoyed talking to Miran and getting her viewpoints on science, but notes that while girls' IQ does not fall below that of boys, they "aren't usually educated to go for sciences."

Josh Olken, a 16-year-old pupil at the Milton Academy prep school in Boston, won the NIS 3,000 third prize. Josh, who had never been to Israel before, likes physics and chemistry and may consider a science career. The experience had a significant effect on his Jewish identity; he would like to spend a year here after high school.

Fifteen-year-old Seth Schoen, a pupil at the Northfield prep school near Boston, came in fifth in the final quiz and won NIS 1,000. Although his father sells rare Jewish books, the family had never been to Israel. The tour, from the Golan to Eilat, to which finalists were treated in addition to the science camp opened his eyes to Israel. "I know a little bit of Hebrew from Hebrew school," he recalls. "After being here, I feel I'd like to come back for a longer stay after high school."

Gili Greenbaum of Yuvalim came in sixth.

Dori notes that among those who won prizes in the first quizzes are now in the army and have told him they intend to go on to study sciences. But even if the Olympiada doesn't produce career scientists, it is a success "merely if it awakens young people to the benefits and importance of studying science."

TA's restaurant at the end of cyberspace

NEW WORLDS

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THE country's first Internet cafe has opened in Tel Aviv.

Shani Information Technologies made a deal with Cafe Bialane (9 Rehov Merkaz Ba'alei Melacha) to install computers there.

For a monthly fee, customers who don't have access at their home or office to the Internet, or even to a computer of their own, can use the Internet whenever the cafe is open. They may even open an electronic mailbox to receive messages from people around the world. The cafe also has an E-mail address: <http://shani.net/Bialane> with photographs of the place, and updates on events there (including poetry readings).

Similar Internet cafes have already opened in various cities around the world; while all users can't drink their cups of coffee together, they can exchange ideas.

NUMBER ONE IN MATH
The two high-school subjects regarded by the average pupil as the toughest – English and mathematics – are now covered by impressive CD-ROM software programs for home use.

Edusys, owned jointly by Bug Multisystem and Edusoft, have just released a Hebrew-language series called *Al Matematika*, following soon after their excellent and highly successful series *English Plus* to teach English from grade four or five through matriculation-exam level.

Al Matematika is divided into two separate packages, one for seventh and eighth grades and the other for high-school pupils. They cost NIS 199 separately, but the set goes for NIS 299. The program gives users many tools to solve a large variety of math problems. Edusys doesn't waste disk space on animation, music or gimmicks. Each problem (e.g. how much undiluted paint must two people buy to paint three

more walls if they used X amount of diluted paint for three coats for a single wall) is illustrated with a single colorful drawing.

Users have an electronic card catalog containing the data they need to try to solve the problem. They can also eschew paper and pencil and use a calculator incorporated into the program, as well as conversion tables, examples of formulae and hints. If they don't get the answer, the program explains all the steps needed to reach it; if they still fail, the answer is produced.

The program is very large, with 14 modules (each with about a dozen problems) for the intermediate level and 11 for high school. Teenagers or adults working on the disk will feel like detectives trying to solve a problem. Going through all the problems and solutions will take some 100 hours, and the program teaches the use of fractions, graphs, algebra, geometry, exponents, formulae, tables and a variety of other elements.

MACCABI LABOR UNION ON THE NET

Amit, the Maccabi labor organization affiliated with the Maccabi health fund, is the first of its kind in Israel to establish a site on the Internet. IBM helped Amit establish the site within 10 days of its decision to go ahead. The site contains 10 "pages" (computer screens) with information about the services available to members, including legal advice and rules governing worker-employer relations. But, of course, one doesn't have to be an Amit member – or even an Israeli – to read it.

Amit chairman Dan Zeligler says he expects many computer users, including young people who freely roam the Internet, to

visit the new site, which can be reached by keying in <http://www1.ibm.net.il/amit>.

Meanwhile, IBM has launched the "fastest Internet line" to link Israel with the Internet central exchange in North America. The line, at 1.5 megabytes per second, is six times faster than the fastest Internet line run by other suppliers. The high speed allows transfer of high-quality video and data. The first customer for the new line is the Inter-University Data Center, which links all the academic institutions with the Internet.

ON-LINE TENDERS

The Israel Association of Chambers of Commerce has decided to open its database to businesspeople by offering printouts of business offers in Israel and abroad through the Postal Authority's toll-free 171 line.

Authority director-general Ran Levin says any telephone subscriber can now order this material, which will be sent to him via his own fax machine or by mail. The cost is NIS 30 for the first business offer and NIS 15 for each subsequent one (up to six) or NIS 50 for a mailed printout. One may order information relating to a specific economic field, geographic region or date.

The authority noted that,

throughout the world, there are hundreds of thousands of businesspeople affiliated with some 4,000 chambers of commerce. They exchange information among themselves via mail and computer networks. The local organization receives an average of 40 new offers daily. The database also includes all tenders of the Defense Ministry.

According to Yisrael Forma, director of the information center of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, "our database has a tremendous business potential that can serve a much larger public than our 700 members who receive information free. We therefore signed a deal with the Postal Authority [to make] it accessible to everyone 24 hours a day."

He adds that since the signing of the Oslo agreement with the PLO, the pace of requests that Israel receives from Moslem countries has even surpassed the number of queries it has had from countries with which it has full diplomatic relations.

For example, Moroccan businessmen in Casablanca have asked to buy irrigation equipment, while a Jordanian firm that owns the patent to a device preventing drivers from being blinded by the lights of oncoming cars and reducing heat inside vehicles have asked for an Israeli partner. A German company looking for cheap labor is interested in building a factory in the autonomous areas, Forma says.

Self-help for the computer 'dummy'

ON LINE

DANIEL BAUM

ANYONE who has a computer also needs computer books. In general the supplied documentation is not enough, or it's too technical, or not written for the layman. You could do a lot worse than to take a look at the "Dummies" series.

If you can get past the somewhat insulting titles, these books are a mine of information on a wide variety of subjects. The titles include *PC for Dummies*, *Windows for Dummies*, *Access 2 for Dummies* (about the Microsoft Access 2 database program), *Modems for Dummies*, *Visual Basic 3 for Dummies* (which covers Microsoft's Visual Basic programming language), and *CD-Roms and Multimedia for Dummies*.

All these titles are published locally in Hebrew by Bug, which has toned down the insulting aspect of the title, which is translated as *lekol ehad* (for everyone).

The books have not only been translated, they have also been localized. Wherever relevant the examples use Hebrew Windows, and the text has been rewritten accordingly.

The only title not to have undergone such a transformation is *Modems for Dummies*, which includes such items as subscription rates for America Online, which is not a lot of use for locals.

Another book published by

Bug, *Internet, Madrich Habazak* (Internet Instant Reference) is particularly awful in this respect. Although a useful book – it's an alphabetized Internet dictionary – it is a straight translation of the American original. Its appendix gives a complete list of American Internet providers sorted by area code. This would have been very useful if it had been exchanged for a list of Israeli providers.

The "Dummies" books have a uniform layout, with lots of illustrations and a comprehensive table of contents, but most of them have no index, despite being reference books. They all use a system of icons to mark paragraphs as technical, tips, warnings and so on. This is not a new system, but it is very effective, whether you are browsing or looking for a specific piece of information.

For beginners' books, they go into a surprising amount of detail. They do not shy away from technical subjects (they have a special icon for it), and they include excellent explanations on installing hardware, configuring DOS and Windows, and so on. This makes them suitable for more experienced users as well,

who will find all kinds of useful tips and tricks.

All this detail is made palatable by a reader-friendly writing style, and copious explanations of technical terms, mostly in shaded boxes and sidebars.

Individually and as a series, I thoroughly recommend these books both for beginners and experienced users, and, of course, for dummies.

For those entranced, as I am, by the Linux operating system, "Running Linux," written by Matt Welsh and Lar Kaufman, and published by O'Reilly and Associates, is an absolute must. It goes into every subject pertaining to the free Unix clone, from obtaining and installing it to setting up applications and networking. It also contains a useful list of FTP sites containing Linux, and Linux bulletin boards around the world.

There are actually a lot of Linux books appearing – a testament to the growing popularity of the system – some of which also include CD-ROMs of the operating system itself. The only problem is that with the speed the system is developing, the books are quite quickly out of date.

Daniel Baum can be reached by E-mail at dbaum@netvision.net.il.

Dead Sea salts can help rheumatic disorder sufferers

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

BATH salts from the Dead Sea have been found to improve the condition of elderly patients suffering from osteoarthritis, a debilitating rheumatic disorder affecting the knees. The patients don't have to go to the Dead Sea to see improvement, but can treat themselves in their own homes.

This is the finding of research led by Prof. Shaul Sukenik, head of the internal medicine department at Soroka Hospital in Beer-sheva, and conducted with help from Kupat Holim Clalit and the health sciences faculty of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The results were enthusiastically received by Inbar, the voluntary association for patients with rheumatic diseases.

The team treated 30 patients suffering from osteoarthritis, which is the most common rheumatic disease in the elderly and becomes more com-

mon as people age. Sukenik, who is a member of Inbar's executive board, said objective tests of knee functioning – as well as subjective patient reports – have shown Dead Sea salts were beneficial without causing any side effects.

ANTI-FUNGAL DRUG GOOD AGAINST ORGAN REJECTION

Australian doctors have found a drug for heart-transplant patients that can reduce their need for the expensive anti-rejection medicine cyclosporine. According to a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Nizoral, the drug commonly used to fight fungal infections, can reduce their need for cyclosporine by 80 percent. It works by slowing the body's tendency to break down cyclosporine.

The net saving was \$5,200 in the first year after the transplant and \$3,920 each year after that.

In addition, doctors at St. Vincent's Hospital in New South Wales found that patients getting the anti-fungal medicine were less likely to reject their transplanted hearts. The researchers also found that giving patients a cholesterol-lowering drug, Pravastatin, in addition to their anti-rejection medicine, protects against rejection and substantially improves the chances of survival.

In an editorial, Drs. Hanna Valantine and John Schroeder of Stanford University called the results compelling.

UNDER PRESSURE

The systolic (upper) reading of blood pressure is important, contrary to what doctors have be-

lieved for years.

Dr. Alex Saguy of Beilinson Hospital's heart institute recently received a prestigious award for his article on this subject, which was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Saguy was awarded the Israel Medical Association's \$1,000 Silberberg Prize for the "best medical journal article on cardiology to be published by an Israeli researcher during the past few years." Saguy wrote the article while working as a researcher in the Framingham Heart Study in the US on the factors involved in cardiovascular disease.

Contrary to the common medical practice of ignoring the systolic reading and diagnosing hypertension largely on the basis of diastolic pressure (the lower figure), Saguy proved that both readings are important. He also showed that a tiny increase in systolic pressure can be an early

signal of cardiovascular disease in the future.

Since many patients undergo treatment for "borderline" hypertension on the basis of their diastolic pressure, Saguy suggests they be reassessed by also considering their systolic pressure.

PEACE BOOSTS AIDS DANGER IN LEBANON

The end of the 15-year civil war in Lebanon has brought an increase in the number of people suffering from AIDS, according to Lebanese health minister Marwan Hamadeh disclosed recently. AP reported him saying that while the official number of AIDS patients is 350, the real number may be 3,500 and may double by the end of the century.

Since 1990, foreigners and Lebanese living abroad have begun trickling back to the country, accelerating the spread of the disease.

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The Halhoul revelation

NOW that the gunmen who killed Salman Azamareh in Halhoul last week are known to be Arabs from a neighboring village, some conclusions seem inevitable. First, the eagerness with which the Eyal and Sword of David groups took credit for the murder not only indicates that this handful of Kach-type activists cannot distinguish right from wrong but that they are mindless, irresponsible braggarts. Even more disturbing than their conduct is that the Halhoulians who witnessed the crime deliberately misled the police with stories intended to incriminate "the settlers." They also failed to mention that the victim was an officer in Yasser Arafat's Fatah, and that he was suspected of collaborating with Israel. Unfortunately, this disinformation exercise worked only too well. Police Minister Moshe Shahal, although aware of the serious contradictions in the Arabs' testimonies, announced that the "initial investigation indicates the gunmen were Jews." The press, including *The Jerusalem Post*, wittingly condemned the killers and called on the Jews of Judea and Samaria to

root out the evildoers. The State Department, too, condemned the murder.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin not only joined the condemnation but announced that Israel's bargaining position in the talks on Hebron had been weakened. And various ministers used the incident to venomously bash "the settlers" (Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur described the murder as "the putrid fruit of the settlements"). Some called for the immediate transfer of Jews from Hebron.

In Halhoul, the whole town, refusing to cooperate with the police, seemed to be partners to the ruse; 1,500 hooded Fatah troops, carrying PLO flags and shouting anti-Israel slogans, marched to the cameras of the international press; and Peace Now representatives piously sat with the bereaved family, listening to anti-Israel harangues in the pre-Oslo mold.

That the police investigators managed to do their work despite this collective attempt to mislead is a tribute to their skills and tenacity. It can only be hoped that in the future, the findings they present to their minister will not be misinterpreted to suit his politics.

Japan and Iran

THE visit of a Japanese prime minister to Israel is no less welcome for being long overdue. Israel's importance to mighty Japan will always be limited, but it is good to see Tokyo demonstrating that its compliance with the Arab boycott is over. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's visit, which follows Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's trip to Tokyo last year, is an important sign that Israel at last has a firm place in Japan's foreign policy.

Murayama's whirlwind tour of the Middle East is mainly concerned with trade and economics, but it is also a reminder that we shall soon witness the extraordinary sight of Japanese soldiers on the Golan Heights, as Tokyo decided last month to send troops to the Middle East for the first time. The 50-strong contingent will be part of the UN disengagement observer force, and will arrive in February for a two-year tour of duty.

The presence of the troops will spark new public awareness of the region and its problems in Japan, and the venture is seen as a key part of the country's wider campaign to gain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Given this economic giant's increasing willingness to take a part in world affairs commensurate with its importance, Israel has a duty of equal importance to take up its concerns about Japan's relations with Iran.

If there is any connection, however remote, between Japan and the deaths of Israelis in south Lebanon or in our city streets, then Iran is that connection. For the past 40 years, Japan's single-minded preoccupation with commercial prosperity, and its belief that close relations with Israel would threaten regular supplies of Middle Eastern oil and paralyze its industry,

mitigated against the normalization of relations the two countries have now reached.

But a reluctance to face realities over the terrorist state of Iran may cloud Japan's relations with Israel - as it has relations with the United States. Japanese funds have for years been the only official money Iran has been given by a Group of Seven donor. Japan is also Iran's second-largest trading partner after Germany. And it has assisted Iran in the construction of various huge projects, including hydroelectric power stations, financed by Japan with little Iranian participation.

Japan's reasons for granting Iran generous soft loans are indeed complex but the government here must make clear to Murayama's entourage that assistance to Iran is viewed with great displeasure. True, the second phase of a Japanese Overseas Development Aid loan to Teheran has been frozen for nearly 18 months, but Japan is still hoping to argue for defrosting it, rather than stopping it, when Murayama meets President Bill Clinton in October. Japan still makes the excuse that Iran is a vital and major supplier of its oil. This is not so - the Iranian proportion of its oil dropped from 37 percent in 1972 to below 10 percent a decade later, and is even lower today.

If Japan is going to take a responsible world role, with the support of countries like the United States, the Europeans and Israel, it must take an equally responsible attitude to the world boycott against Iran. Of course, no one suggests Japanese yen directly fund Hizbullah or Hamas terrorism - but every dollar Iran is given in aid or commercial profit frees up another dollar from its domestic coffers for its nefarious projects of subversion overseas.

WHAT EXCUSE CAN WE USE NOW TO PREVENT RIGHT WINGERS FROM MAKING ALIYA?



YLEG 95

'Everyone's a cheat'

ACT I

"YOU can't go through," says the clerk at Hadassah Hospital's ear nose and throat clinic at Mount Scopus, when the young man asks to see an ear doctor.

It is the young man's third visit, at the doctor's insistence, in the five days since he had an eardrum blown out in the bus bombing in Ramat Eshkol. "You can't go through without proof that you were injured in the explosion."

"But this is the third time you've seen me," the young man protests. "You were even here when I was first brought in."

"Sorry," says the clerk, not sounding sorry at all, "but we can't be too careful. Lots of people are trying to take advantage of us - claiming they were hurt in the bombing so they can be treated right away instead of making an appointment and waiting their turn."

The young man feels the same type of disorientation and disbelief that overwhelmed him immediately after the bomb went off. "What must I do?" he asks. The clerk smiles. "Go to the police. Get a form. Go to the National Insurance Institute. Get a form. Go to..."

"Please. You have my file here. You opened it when I was brought in. Just take out the file and you'll see I was injured in the blast."

"Sorry. I take out files of people who have made proper appointments, not people who walk in off the street trying to avoid waiting their turn."

Now desperate, the young man says, "Okay, I'll make an appointment."

"The doctor you want can see you at 11 a.m. on Wednesday..." the clerk is grinning. "...January 3."

The young man turns to leave. A nurse passes by. "Hello," she says. "Are you any better? The

MOSHE SAPERSTEIN

doctor is waiting for you." She leads the young man past the clerk, who grumbles: "We can't be too careful. Everyone's trying to take advantage of us."

ACT II, Scene 1

The young man remembers how, three days after the bombing, he was at the police station in the Russian Compound, trying to reclaim his belongings left on the bus.

The police, who are friendly and helpful, have everything

A tale about bureaucracy, in three acts

tagged and displayed in an orderly manner.

The young man's book-bag seems to have gone through a bread slicer, while two notebooks have been shredded. But his keys and money are there; his identity card and other papers are intact. Even a sandwich, still wrapped, seems none the worse for wear, though two peeled carrots are missing.

The only damage to property is the bag itself, and the shredded notebooks. And his sunglasses and the two peeled carrots are missing.

"Shouldn't I be making a deposition about my book-bag and sunglasses?"

"Don't worry about a thing except getting well," says the kindly policeman. "When tragedies like this occur, we all pull together."

"Just go to the Property Tax Office. They're used to these situations. There won't be any problems."

"After all, you aren't claiming really expensive items. Now, if you were claiming there was a

video camera in your bag..." They both laugh.

ACT II, Scene 2

"Are you kidding?" sneers the Property Tax clerk. "Do you think we're suckers? That we'd reimburse you for a book-bag and sunglasses without a police deposition? Why should we believe you?"

"Everyone is trying to take advantage of us. We can't be too careful."

ACT III

"Sorry," says the National Insurance clerk, "but that's the law. We reimburse you 100 percent for salary lost, up to any amount. But only if you've been on the job for three months. Otherwise, you get a standard NIS 100 per day for each day you couldn't work."

"But I was earning NIS 250 per day. And I've missed a week's work. And the whole job, teaching Hebrew to foreign students at the Hebrew University, just started two weeks ago, and runs for eight weeks. So how could I have been working for three months?"

"How do we know you were earning NIS 250 per day? Why should we believe you? Lots of people start high-paying jobs, then claim full reimbursement for phony work accidents. We need a thousand eyes to see all the scams."

"I'll bring a letter from the university."

"Why should we believe anybody? You're all trying to cheat us. We can't be too careful."

"But I was injured in a terrorist attack, not a work accident."

"Do I care whether it was a bomb that went off under you, or a bookcase that fell on top of you? That's the law. Period."

The writer is a resident of Jerusalem.

Those Russians

LARRY DERFNER

WHEN my wife went into the hospital to have a baby a couple of months ago, I groaned inwardly when I found that many of the nurses on the ward were Russian immigrants.

By the time we left, I was a budding Russophile.

These nurses were brilliant. There were three or four of them, and every one was so gentle, so attentive. You could see it on their faces - the way they smiled at us, they way they would inquire after us, the way they listened to our questions, and took time to explain things.

They bent the rules when it was right to bend them. (By contrast, most of the Israeli nurses were professional but impatient, and went strictly by-the-book.)

According to the street wisdom about Russians, these immigrant nurses were the exact opposite of what they were supposed to be.

Most Russians, goes the Israeli consensus, are lousy workers. Their initiative was killed by socialism. They won't move unless ordered to, and then they'll shut-

One hospital stay, and my prejudices were turned around

file. They're incapable of improvising (not like Israelis).

They're unqualified for their jobs, having faked their diplomas and resumes; chances are the Russian immigrant neurosurgeon was really a lab technician back in Moscow.

I believed it all - or a great deal of it, anyway. Why? It fit nicely with my other prejudices against Russians.

Except for the Prisoners of Zion and a few others, the Russians didn't want to be here, I knew, and came only because they couldn't get into America.

And then they grumble all the time - this is the chief Israeli complaint against them - and remain sour and dissatisfied no matter how much Israel gives them, which is more than any other country would. They're ungrateful. Selfish.

Compounding all this were my political prejudices. I'd heard, read and was convinced that the Russians were reactionary, and believed in a simple politics of "Everything for me, and nothing for you."

Socially, I learned, they looked down on Israelis as their cultural inferiors. Sephardim were even more inferior, Ethiopians worse yet, and Arabs the lowest of the low.

Where did I get all this? A political scientist here, a Jewish Agency official there, an indignant Ethiopian or Sephardi here and there. And, of course, I got it from the air - from all the anthropological observations being swapped in the street and the media.

Who knows, maybe there's even a grain of truth to it all. Stereotypes are supposedly based in truth - unless they're about me and mine.

BUT THESE days I don't want to think about any of that. My head was so turned around by those nurses that now I find myself thinking only happy thoughts about the Russians. For every negative stereotype there is a positive one, and my mind is full of them.

In the course of work the other day I called up a Russian woman, and as soon as she opened her mouth, I heard Chekhov. I was thinking: Now this is a descendant of a great, cultured people. Listen to that good old Chekhovian yearning. Just hear that dark, Russian soul pouring out, that fiery Russian passion.

Whatever she said, it had Tolstoyan scope, Barishnikovian grace, Spudnikian precision. Behind her words, I heard the soundtrack from Dr. Zhivago.

And all because a few Russian nurses were good to us.

Like they say, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. For all my opinions, I have personal contact with a total of one Russian immigrant - on occasion, and only because she married my cousin.

What do I really know about these people? Just enough to concoct all these ridiculous prejudices.

The writer is a journalist living

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAPITULATION TO TERROR

Sir, - According to David Makovsky (Comment, August 22), "the question is whether unrestrained attacks on the prime minister... unwittingly play into the hands of those Hamas officials who have now decided that it is also in their best interest to topple Rabin."

This convoluted logic is reminiscent of Amos Oz's infamous statement to the *New York Times* that the Likud is partner to Hamas because both organizations oppose Rabin's policies.

It is highly doubtful that Hamas in fact wishes to topple the Rabin government, as no previous government has ever given Hamas so much: continuous release of thousands of terrorists from our prisons, nonstop unilateral concessions on land, and most of all, capitulation to terror by speeding up the negotiations after each terrorist attack.

RUTH ELBAUM GREGOR
Jerusalem.

THE GOAL OF HAMAS

Sir, - Every Hamas terrorist attack causes a national and international cry: "Hamas must not be allowed to succeed in halting the talks, the peace talks must continue!" Hamas has "united" Rabin, Clinton, Christopher, Major, Mubarak, Peres, Hussein, etc., behind this call.

But what is the real goal of Hamas - to disrupt the peace talks or to assure their continuation? In the aftermath of each attack, we respond by continuing the talks at a more determined and accelerated pace, with more and more concessions to the Palestinians.

In actuality, every death and bomb guarantees the continuation of the talks. Perhaps that is the goal of Hamas. RINA FELDMAN AVNER
Eilat.

VERBAL ABUSE

Sir, - I don't know how long Larry Derfner ("Ties that bind, September 7) has been politically aware, but he is very much behind the times if he truly believes that demonstrators screaming insults and epithets at politicians is a modern right-wing invention in Israel.

Personally, I first came across this phenomenon in the early '70s as a student at Tel Aviv University. At that time, the serene intellectual climate was frequently shattered by demonstrations of extreme left students (Matzpen, Siah, Communists) against the Labor government under Golda Meir. Any attempt by other students to conduct a serious discussion was overthrown by the left-wingers whose technique was to emerge triumphant by conducting a one-way slanging match with anyone who happened to pass by. No one could match their chorus of insult and invective; indeed few ever tried. For how could one retaliate when the air was filled with "fascists," "Nazis," "murderers," "racists," etc.?

In the '80s, extreme left-wing demonstrators (Peace Now, Yesh Gvul) would serenade the same insults at Menachem Begin, Ariel Sharon and any other "fascist" who happened to be within windpipe range.

Unpopular politicians, especially prime ministers, must be prepared for backlashes from citizens (now a majority) who feel themselves despised and neglected by the public "servants" whom they are paying to protect their interests and lives, but who, instead, show utter contempt for the fears and opinions of the average citizen.

Kiryat Ono. TRUDY GEFEN

INTEMPERATE OUTBURST

Sir, - Further to the editorial of August 25 regarding statements by government officials seeking to create a climate of identification between the Hamas/Islamic Jihad and the Likud/National camp, special attention should be paid to the most recent comments of Minister of Science and the Arts and Communication, Shulamit Aloni.

On August 23, Ms. Aloni was interviewed by Yuval Porat on the Army Radio round-up program at 7:41. She said: "What is the difference between the Islamic extremists and our extremists as regards style, the disorderly conduct or the absolute justice they possess? There is no difference between them."

If anyone had any doubt that this government does not include irrational elements whose ideological positions override basic principles of objectivity, fairness and an ability to differentiate between relative standards, Ms. Aloni's more than intemperate outburst should be proof enough that that is not the case. YISRAEL MEDAD

Shiloh.

SLOGANS

Sir, - Forty years ago, the Communists in the US parroted the propaganda slogan, "Better Red than Dead." It insinuated a lack of choice and this proved to be not true.

The slogan of the left wing in Israel today is "We have no choice." This is the same propaganda slogan, using different words. It is not the truth. We have many choices.

What the left is really saying is, "We will do whatever we want; you have no choice." Is this democracy or totalitarianism? AHUVA LEVY

Herzliya.

POSTSCRIPTS

AN ITALIAN magazine has published explicit photographs of Prince Charles in the nude - one of them on its front page with a "scratch 'n see" box readers are invited to erase to reveal all.

The photographs were taken through an open window of a chateau in southern France where Charles had been staying during a recent holiday, the magazine *Evaremla* said.

The photographers caught Charles changing from his bathing trunks into boxer shorts. Nothing was left to the imagination.

"Rub this out if you want to see it uncensored," the cover read, with an arrow pointing to a silver box masking Charles's groin. Another front-page photograph showed a clear view of his naked back and buttocks.

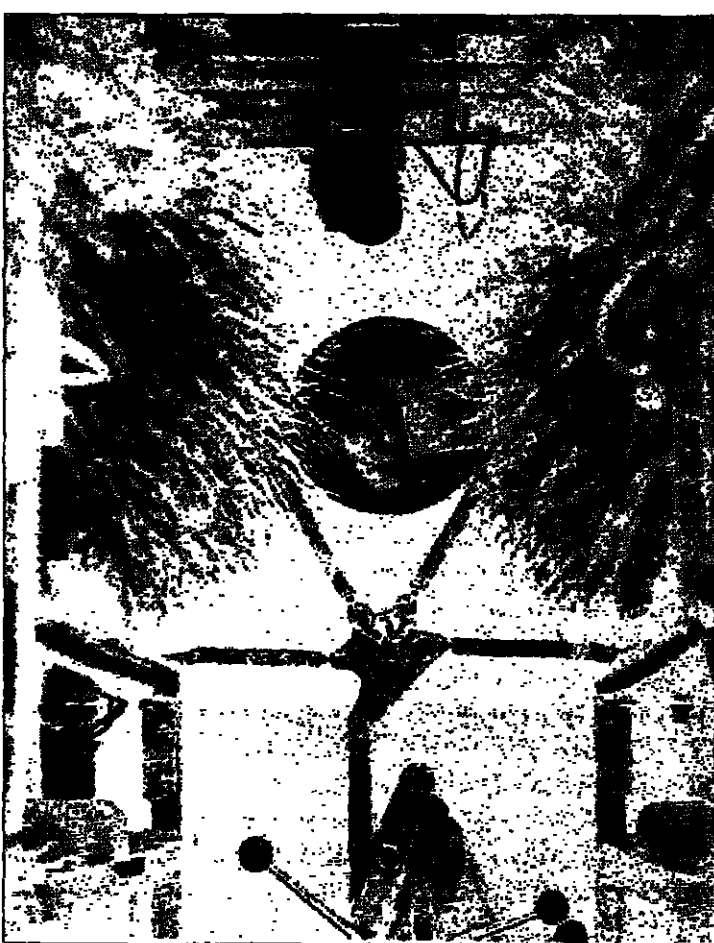
A BRITISH man married his guitar and his wife thinks he's crazy.

Chris Black, 53, says he fell for his Fender Stratocaster the moment he saw it 35 years ago. "We've had such a long engagement that I decided it was time we did the decent thing," he said.

Black asked a friend to perform the wedding ceremony after a local vicar refused to do it.

Not surprisingly his wife of 29 years, Janet, is a bit embarrassed by it all. "My wife thinks I'm crazy," said Black. "When I die, I want to be buried with it."

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Nigel Packham really knows how to live: the sealed chamber he's peeking out of was his home for 15 days. What he's looking at is some of the 30,000 wheat plants that provided him with oxygen during that time. NASA said the British scientist's test of a self-sustaining life-support system proves that humans could eventually thrive on the moon or Mars.

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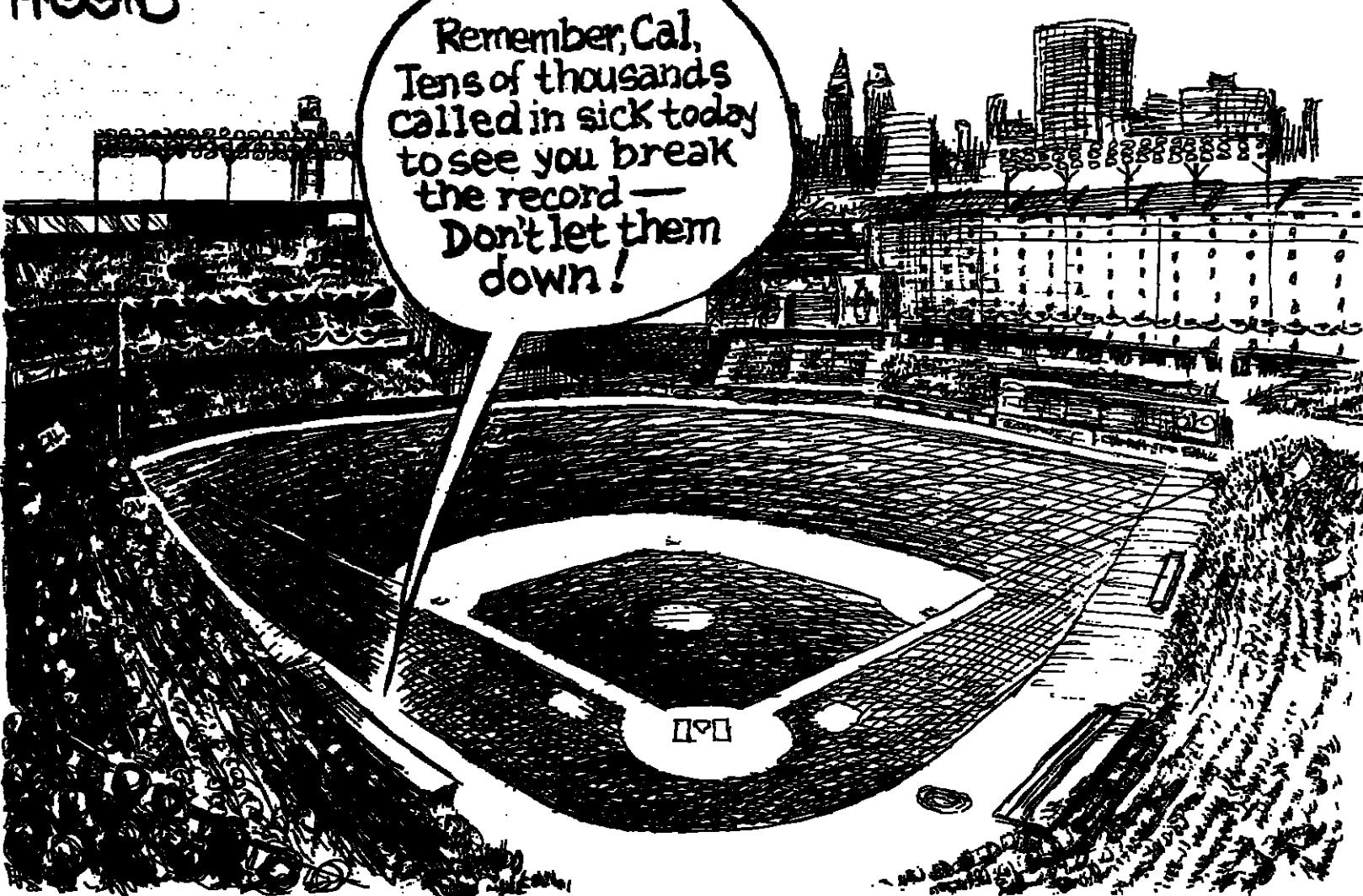
AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, September 17, 1995

HIGGINS

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Remember, Cal,
Tens of thousands
called in sick today
to see you break
the record —
Don't let them
down!



CLASS BY HIMSELF

Lou Gehrig's record for the most consecutive baseball games played had not been broken in more than 56 years when Gehrig played for the New York Yankees. Baltimore Orioles' Cal Ripken, 35, broke that mark September 6, 1995 at Camden Yards in Maryland with 2,131 consecutive games played.

Remaking the U.S. fiscal policy

BY SHELDON POLLACK

Ever since the Republicans embarked upon their radical, Contract with America-inspired agenda last fall, pundits have predicted that they would overreach themselves, creating a political fiasco and backlash. But those battles pale before the one emerging over the future of the federal income tax. Right now, replacing the current revenue system with a flat tax is the GOP's hottest — and riskiest — idea.

Lately Republican Rep. Richard Army and his fellow Texan Bill Archer have brought the anti-income tax movement into the mainstream. From his pulpit as chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, wherein all revenue bills originate, Archer has said that he wants to "rip the income tax out by the roots and throw it overboard."

Though Army's is the main flat tax proposal now before Congress, there is no lack of competitors. These days, it seems that any congressional leader or would-be presidential contender needs only a few hours and some energetic staff members to draft an entirely "new" tax system.

The most radical and least understood aspect of the flat tax proposals is that they are really consumption taxes in disguise. The tax base of a "pure" consumption tax is an individual's annual income, less savings for the year. This is in contrast to an income tax which taxes annual income plus the return on capital (e.g., savings). When you cut through the technical language of all the flat tax proposals, the end result is to tax individual's net consumption for the year and exempt the return on capital investment (dividends and interest).

That might sound reasonable enough to economists, who bemoan the disincentives and inefficiencies that result from taxing the return on capital, but the effects of such a shift would be drastic. Savings (income not consumed) would no longer be taxed. Certain taxpayers, therefore, would benefit greatly. For example, wealthy individuals with high annual income but low consumption patterns would appear to pay less tax under a consumption tax than under the current system — although their businesses would likely pay more.

Perhaps for this reason, a bill introduced by Sens. Sam Nunn and Pete Domenici, as well as Sen. Specter's, makes all kinds of exceptions to consumption tax principles so they don't look like they're taking from the middle class and giving to the wealthy.

Most polls show widespread backing for a flat tax, but beneath this veneer of support lie powerful political constituencies who will fight it tooth and nail. Whole sectors of the national economy have grown up around, and depend upon, the kind of tax preferences that the flat tax would eliminate. Universities, museums and city orchestras all rely upon the incentives to charitable giving created by high marginal tax rates and deductions for contributions.

State and municipal governments will not be thrilled to lose the special tax treatment now afforded to interest paid on their bonds. Since all interest will be exempt from taxation under the flat tax, exempt state and municipal bonds will lose their preference. This could result in as much as a 30 percent drop in the value of portfolios of tax-exempt bonds. The economic upheaval that could ensue should give conservative Republicans pause.

House Republicans are presumptuous in thinking they can remake so much of federal fiscal policy all at once. In repealing the income tax, they will be moving into uncharted waters — no one really knows what the impact would be on much of the national economy. The political danger for the GOP goes well beyond the familiar charge that they are coddling the rich.

All these objections aside, how would we actually switch to a consumption tax? That simple question is one that proponents of the flat consumption tax cannot answer. Since all current national savings has already been taxed under the present income tax regime, it would be necessary to exempt these amounts from taxation under the new consumption tax. Otherwise, the savings of all taxpayers would be taxed a second time — this is essentially a consumption tax, remember — as they spend their savings in retirement. But any set of rules that would allow taxpayers to identify their pre-"reform" savings for some transitional period under the old income tax regime would be a nightmare of complexity. And exempting so much of the national wealth from the consumption tax would obviate the very benefits the new tax regime is supposed to produce.

Finance Committee Democrats Bill Bradley and Carol Moseley-Braun have made the traditional liberal case against the flat tax, calling it "regressive," and focusing mostly upon the perceived benefits to the "rich" of a tax rate that is a uniform 17 percent (or 20 percent under Specter's plan), as opposed to the present 39.6 percent maximum. Such familiar rhetoric from Democrats will not sink the flat tax by itself. But when conservatives themselves grasp the enormity and risk of restructuring the entire fiscal organization of the post-New Deal federal government, the flat tax bandwagon will slow. If they do not, the flat tax could very well become their public policy debacle — the fiscal equivalent of the Clinton administration's ill-fated health care initiative. As Robert Reischauer, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, puts it: "(tax reform) may look good from a mile away, but up close, it's a political minefield."

Sheldon D. Pollack teaches law in the College of Business and Economics at the University of Delaware and is the author of *Tax Policy and the Failure of American Politics*, to be published by Penn State Press in 1996.

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Ban on Troops

Fiesty congressman makes impact on U.S. Bosnia policy

BY ROBERT NOVAK

Rep. Mark Neumann of Wisconsin, perhaps the feistiest member of the feisty Republican freshman class of '95, accomplished something important last week that went almost unnoticed. Against the wishes of leaders of both parties and the Clinton administration, he won House passage of a qualified ban on U.S. troops to Bosnia. This prohibition has far to go before it clears Congress, much less wins President Clinton's signature.

Nevertheless, the 41-year-old businessman from Janesville, Wisconsin was surprised and elated. He has agonized over the accelerating U.S. intervention, taken place without the consent of the citizenry.

During the August recess, Neumann went to the former Yugoslavia where it was made clear to him that the United States has chosen sides. The foreign service officer from the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade who accompanied him was so stridently anti-Serb that Neumann protested. Her attitude reflects State Department policy. Yet, officials at State say they are appalled by the even stronger pro-Croat tilt of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

With the Washington deck stacked against the Serbs, a rookie on Capitol Hill might be expected to go along. But Neumann is no ordinary freshman.

He sold his construction business to pour \$1.2 million into his campaign. In his first month in office, he nearly was kicked out of a coveted seat on the Appropriations

Committee for not knuckling under to the Republican leadership.

Neumann is no super-dove. He opposes meat-ax defense cuts and supports the B-2 stealth bomber. He applauds NATO bombing of

"I have a recurring fear that I am going to wake up one morning, turn on the news, and find out that the president of the United States has deployed 25,000 United States troops to the Bosnian region."

Bosnian Serb positions on the grounds that this facilitates peace talks.

But Neumann is appalled at the thought of

the 25,000 American troops promised by the president for Bosnian military activities. He is by no means pro-Serb, but his August visit convinced him there is a need for neutrality in the bloody struggle over a Greater Serbia.

He has been pleading with Republican leaders to let the House vote for a ban on U.S. forces. They have said no. Indeed, Republicans led by Dole were excoriating Clinton for being insufficiently anti-Serb.

But last week, as the House debated the defense appropriations bill, Neumann rose on the floor.

Would rank-and-file House members oppose their leaders and the president? The prospect that they might do just that brought a reaction from Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania-the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee's ranking Democrat who proposed that Neumann's exception not apply to U.S. troops sent to extract United Nations forces.

Such a move is not imminent. So Neumann accepted three-quarters of a loaf, and his amended proposal was adopted without further debate.

Its fate in Bob Dole's Senate or in the Senate-House conference committee is unknown. So is what the president would do if this prohibition is passed and he is called on to supply his promised 25,000 troops.

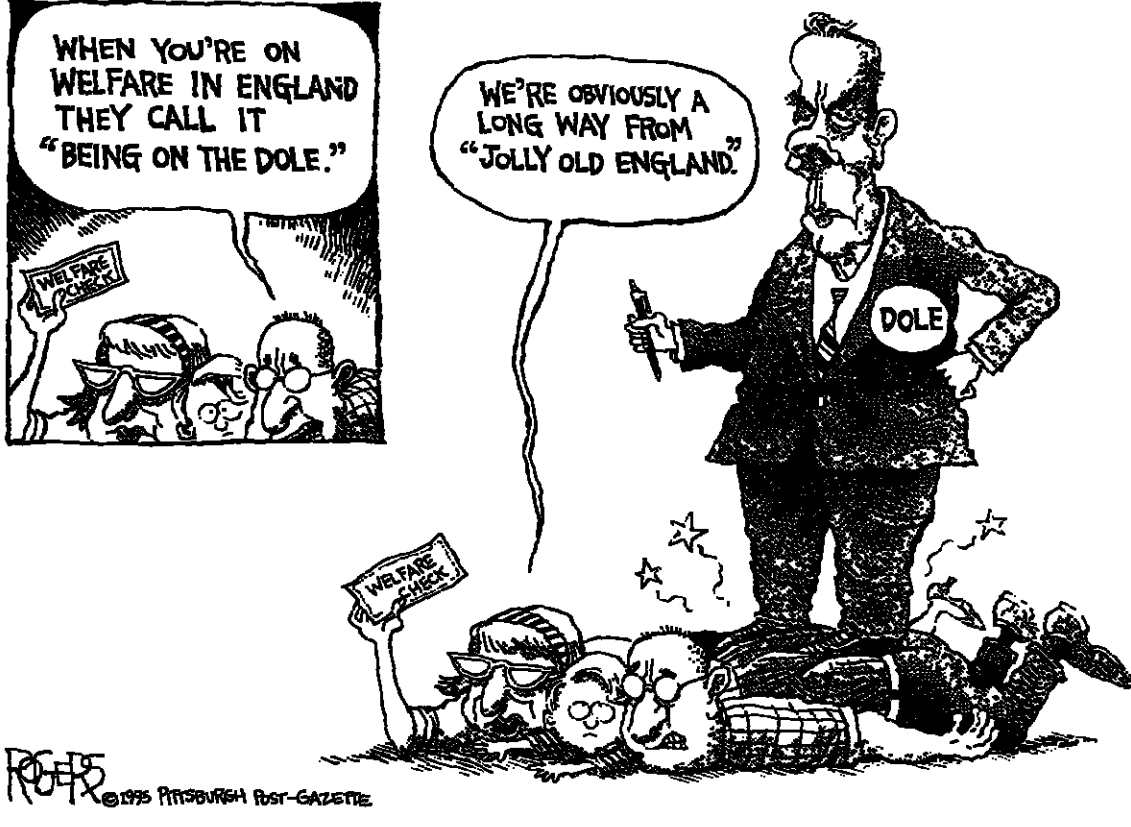
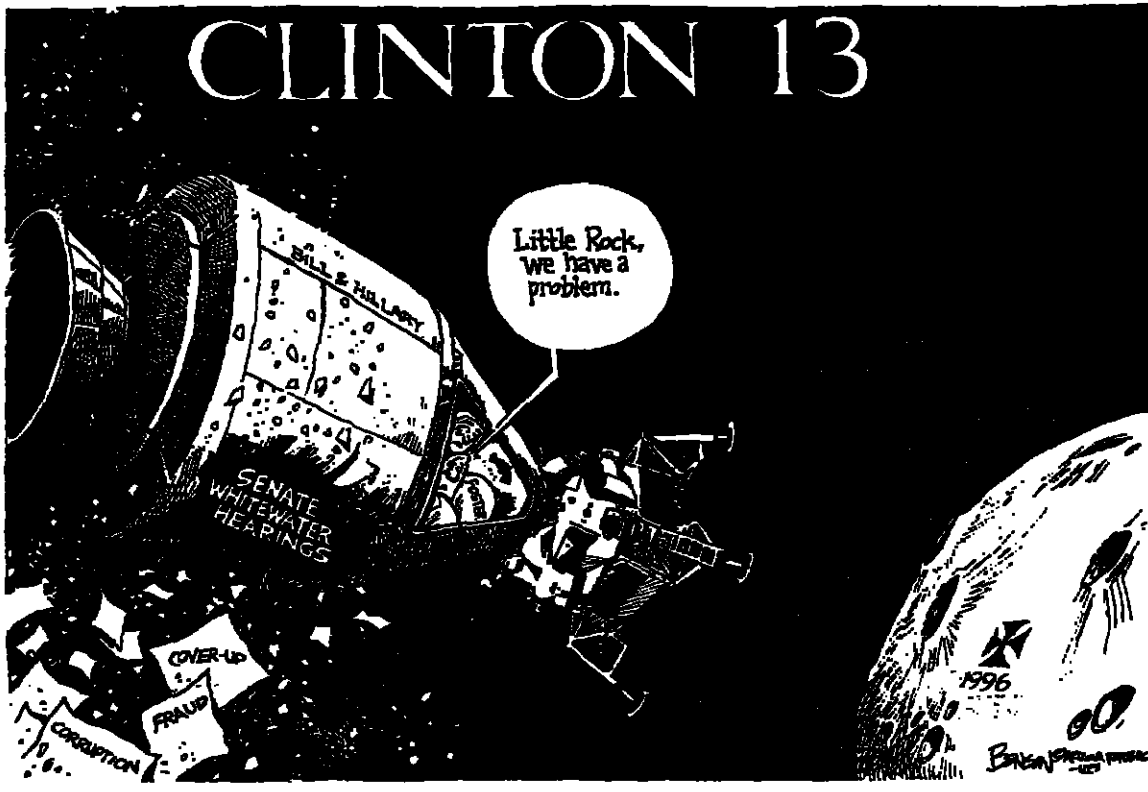
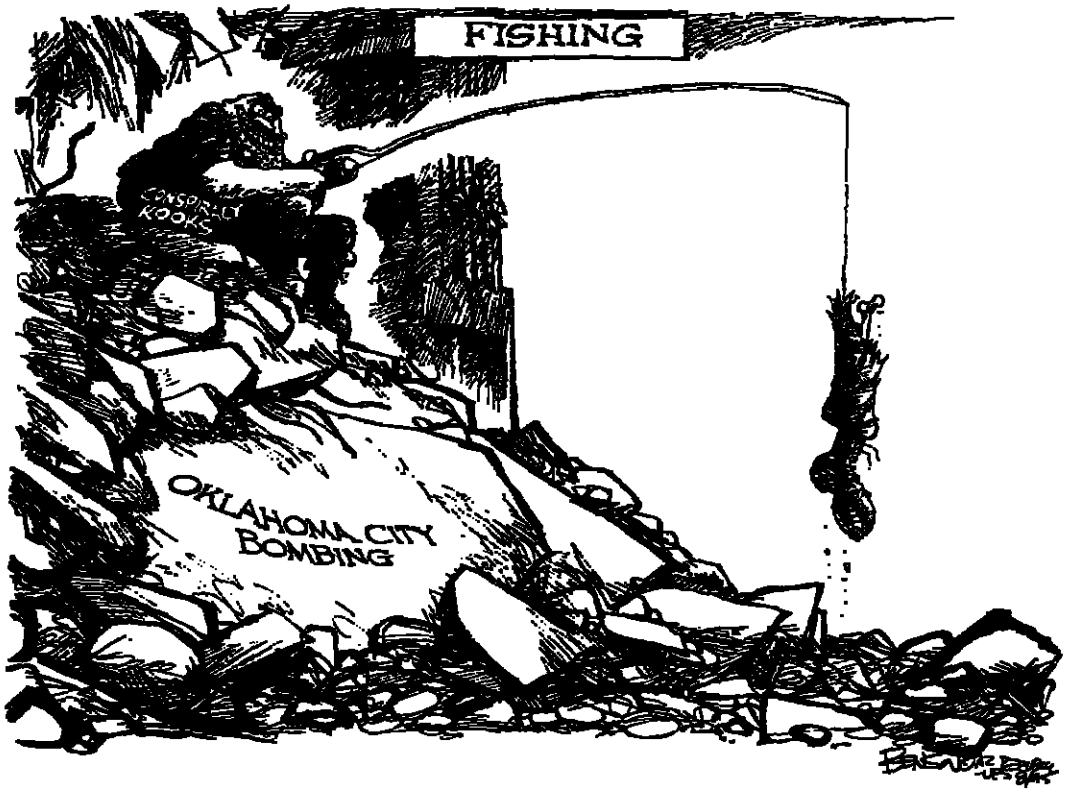
But thanks to a lowly freshman congressman, deep seated public opposition to military involvement in the Balkans at long last has been raised in the people's House.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Expensive plan to make Wisconsin work

BY MICKEY KAUS

When Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, on August 3, announced "the end of the automatic welfare check," the national press largely ignored him. Only The Los Angeles Times made a fuss about his proposal, called Wisconsin Works ("W-2"). The trouble is, Thompson's plan really is a landmark. If it receives the attention it deserves, it could tip the balance in the current congressional argument over welfare.

It's easy to spot problems with the time-limit idea. Poor mothers are to be given a check, and then after a certain period of time — typically two years — the state will try to take it away. The temporary period of cash aid is supposed to give recipients time to get their act together. But it also muddles the message to young women who aren't yet on the dole. To some it might say "Welfare isn't permanent, so don't count on it." To others it might say "Have an out-of-wedlock child and get two years of benefits." And it's always harder to take a check away from someone than it is to not give it to them in the first place.

The new Wisconsin plan is different. To the vast majority of families seeking aid, it doesn't offer any period of cash assistance. The time limit, in effect, is zero. If you're poor, and need immediate help, you can get a "bridge loan." But you'll have to pay it back starting the next month. If a loan won't solve the problem, you'll be matched with a private job or offered a community service job, plus child care to enable you to take that job. The general principle is "no cash, only work." Yes, mothers can get cash support for the first twelve weeks of their child's life. But that's all. Those certified as disabled (but who for some reason don't qualify for federal disability benefits) will also get cash assistance, but a state official estimates that no more than 15 percent of those who apply for aid will qualify for this "W-2 Transitions" program. Even these disabled recipients will be required to do some work, in special "sheltered workshops" if necessary.

In one sense, the W-2 plan is harsh. Single moms with 13-week-old infants will have to take a job if they have no other means of support. But it's because of this unyielding message that W-2 can be expected to have a large effect

on the culture of ghetto poverty. Young women will no longer have out of wedlock babies and then go on welfare — forming non-working non-families — for the simple reason that this will no longer be possible.

In another sense, W-2 is ambitiously generous. Essentially, Thompson is promising a job, plus child care, to every poor Wisconsin parent who walks in the door. If he can't find you a private job, he'll give you one of the public, workfare jobs he once sneered at. That will require a lot of public jobs, and a lot of child care. One estimate, from inside Thompson's bureaucracy, is that about 30 percent of W-2 applicants will need workfare jobs — about 15,000 to 20,000 people. Far more will need child care, since Thompson promises to subsidize this service for all working families making less than about \$20,000 — even those working in the private sector. Oh, and one more thing: W-2 guarantees health coverage at a nominal cost to "all families with low incomes and with low assets."

How is Thompson going to pay for all this? Thompson's advisers apparently expect the number of Wisconsinites seeking support to fall dramatically once people realize they can no longer get cash without working. That would free up money to finance jobs and day care for the remainder of those seeking aid. In Fond du Lac, one of the two counties where Thompson imposed his trial two-year time limit, case loads dropped 40 percent in a single year, well before anybody hit the two-year wall. Those who would have gone on welfare seem to have found private jobs instead, or moved. But Fond du Lac is a largely white town with low unemployment and no "inner city." It may be wishful thinking to expect a similar result in the ghetto culture of Wisconsin's major urban center, Milwaukee. One suggestive bit of evidence: over the eight years since Thompson began his reforms, the case load outside of Milwaukee has declined by 41 percent; in Milwaukee the rolls have shrunk only 6 percent. If Milwaukee's impoverished residents can't find private jobs, and line up to claim the public jobs W-2 has promised, will Thompson step in and fund them even if it means doing it with state, not federal, money? Even if it means raising state taxes?

Thompson has yet to announce the cost of his plan. But

his press secretary has already been quoted as saying that unless Congress provides a big enough block grant, W-2 will have to be cut back. That's a bit galling, since it was Thompson who pushed the idea of block grants in the first place, over Democratic warnings that they wouldn't be generous enough. If Thompson can afford W-2 under the Republicans' block grant regime, that may only be because Wisconsin does relatively well under the formula for allocating the grants.

There are other problems with Thompson's scheme. W-2 limits public service employment to two nine-month stints. What if someone still can't find a private sector job? Perhaps Thompson will make generous use of a provision allowing further public employment, in times of recession, on a case-by-case basis. Or perhaps willing workers will wind up on the streets. Thompson's plan also depends heavily on the just-expanded federal Earned Income Tax Credit, which makes private sector work more attractive than either welfare or workfare. Yet Republicans in Congress are now busy attacking the EITC.

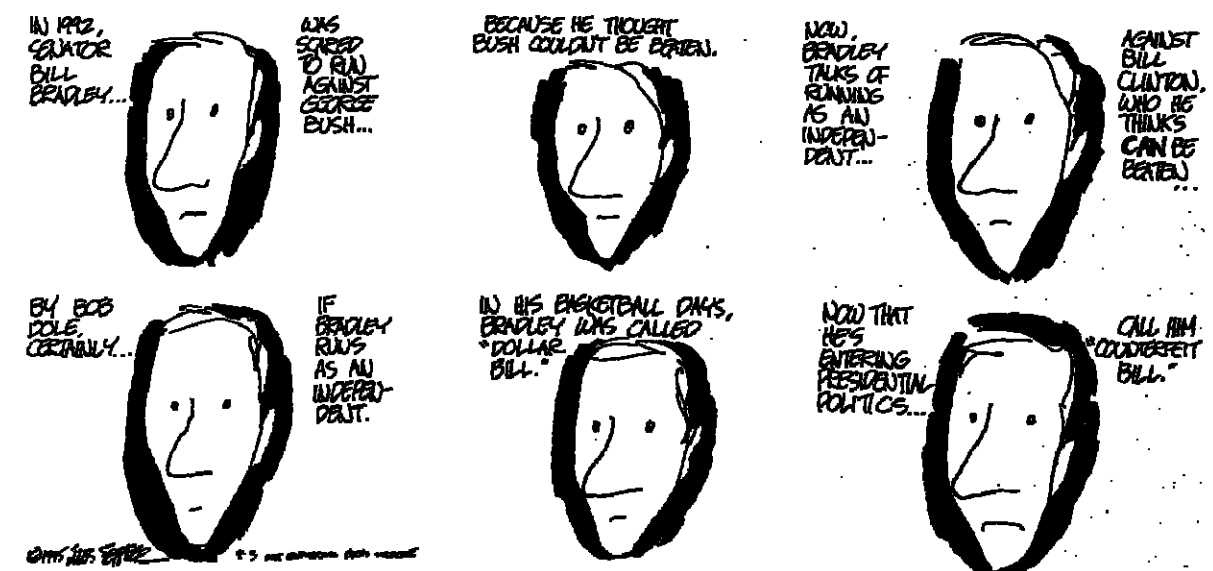
The most widespread objection to welfare block grants has cited the danger that, offered a fixed federal payment, governors would co-opt to spend as little as possible on the poor. States, the argument goes, will be happy to experiment by cutting recipients off, cold turkey. They might be happy to tinker with the system while essentially maintaining the status quo (since it's relatively cheap to just send people checks). But no state would want to spend its own money for a work-based system that required lots of expensive child care and public jobs.

Now, though, at least one state says that, if the Republican bills pass, it will try the tough-but-expensive approach. Thompson's W-2 initiative hardly removes all the objections to block grants. (Some governors might still respond by ending all aid to the poor. And why not give those states that mandate work a federal guarantee of sufficient child care money?) But W-2 should undermine a major argument against the Republican reform. If anybody notices.

Mickey Kaus is a senior editor of The New Republic.

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FEIFFER*





Making or breaking Guinness records

BY CALEB CRAIN

Yesterday I rejected an 82-year-old woman with braces. Too young, no special skills. I felt a brief flicker of pity, which I silently smothered. As the editor (for two and a half months, anyway), I can't let just anyone into The Guinness Book of Records. I didn't bother to write a personal note; I sent her a form letter. "How can you live with yourself?" an officemate asked when I told him.

Editing The Guinness Book of Records is like editing poetry. The job may impress a few of your friends. To a special circle of people, who you hope will never discover your home telephone number, you are wildly glamorous and powerful. But the bitter truth is you spend most of your days rejecting people. Desperately ambitious people. People who will do nearly anything to win a meager fraction of a column inch in your publication. It either breaks your heart or fills you with sadistic glee.

In a few cases, a no is clearly a mercy killing. I had no qualms about rejecting, for instance, the math instructor in Oregon who, instead of teaching his seventh graders algebra, was forcing them to thread thousands of soda can tabs together, with the Dickensian goal of inflicting upon the children a subjective appreciation of the number 1 million. It also seems right to take a firm stand against infant prodigies, especially when their parents have nurtured them into flying airplanes solo for long distances or lifting their own body weight in Olympic competitions.

But in the beginning I had trouble coming to terms with this power of veto. I agonized about turning down the woman who found a carrot inscribed with her initials on the processing belt of the canery she worked in. In neurotic compensation, I would scribble a handwritten "Sorry!" at the bottom of many of my form letters to the "Dear Aspiring Record-Breakers," as if a personal touch could soften the blow. Then Paul Newman called.

Sort of. Technically, the phone call came from Warren Cowan, whom a recent issue of The New Yorker dubbed "the legendary Hollywood publicist." Newman wanted to be listed as the world's oldest racecar winner. He asked if I could find time in my busy schedule to be photographed with him, but I decided — movies, schmovies — I couldn't. Too young (by two years), and besides, he came in third. Saying no to Paul Newman gave me the self-importance I needed. My task came into focus. I was a guarantor of standards. Once I had rejected Paul Newman, the others were easy, even the woman from Louisiana whose ovarian cyst, the size of a 3-month-old baby, had been successfully removed during surgery. She attributed the rumor to the see-through aliens who raped her years ago. Once I explained to her that the world-record ovarian cyst was much larger than a 3-month-old baby — in fact, it was roughly the size of two college basketball players — she demurred as gracefully as Paul had. (Our 1995 edition ran a picture of this world-record cyst, removed intact and glistening an evil yellow — exactly how I imagine "it" from A Wrinkle in Time.)

Whole sections of Guinness are devoted not only to snooker and billiards, but to sports with names like curling and hurling. Nothing is more nightmarishly baffling to an ignorant editor than a foreign sport. I thought cricket was odd, with its wickets and dismissals. But here's what I've pieced together about curling: if it happens in large clumps, you call it a "bonspiel." Every team is led by a person with the preppy title of "skip." To play you need specially prepared curling "ice," and once everything is ready, you throw "stones." I imagine curling, when performed, has the same menacing thrill as the denouement of a Stephen King movie set in a small New England town.

Despite my whining, I admit that I've enjoyed my stint working for The Guinness Book of Records. I'm compromised into practicing the morally suspect and probably un-American activity of discouraging people from achieving their full potential. But in what other job would I receive a threatening letter from an 11-year-old boy who vows not to change his underwear until I feature him? I'm needed and wanted as never before. Morgan writes to say she literally will not sleep until she hears she has broken a record, and Timmy sends "proof" that he farted 137 times ("inside this letter you will see the fart list" — 137 pencil hatch marks). I sympathize more than I let on with the anxious Californians, struggling to produce the world's largest burrito, who call to ask, "What exactly do you mean by 'edible'?" And it wouldn't be so hard for me to disillusion the woman who wants to write the world's most romantic poetry ("most" as a matter of quantity not style) if I didn't, at some level, wish her well. After all, it would be a lovely affront to the tyranny of this world's poetry editors to be able to tell them, "Maybe The Paris Review disagrees, but according to The Guinness Book of Records..."

Caleb Crain no longer works for The Guinness Book of Records. He now writes sonnets.

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Prosecutors knew about Fuhrman

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Before Mark Fuhrman ever took the witness stand in front of the O.J. Simpson jury, the prosecutors knew he was a racist, a liar and an evidence planter. The only thing they didn't know is that tapes existed which could prove these facts coming out of Fuhrman's own mouth.

The prosecution had at least two unimpeachable sources for this information. The first was one of their own deputy district attorneys, Lucienne Coleman, a 17-year veteran of the office and the former head of its sex crimes division, told fellow prosecutors Marcia Clark and William Hodgeman, as early as August of last year, that police officers had told her on several occasions that Fuhrman was a bigot and a liar who was capable of planting evidence. Although the prosecutors and investigators with L.A.P.D. Internal Affairs knew about these and other allegations before Fuhrman was called to the witness stand, only a redacted memorandum containing little of this information was provided to the defense.

STATEMENTS

The second unimpeachable source was Mark Fuhrman's own statements to therapists. In the 1983 claim that Fuhrman brought against the L.A.P.D. seeking a disability pension, Fuhrman told therapists that he was suffering from intense stress and had left the Marine Corps because he had developed antagonistic feelings toward Mexicans and African-Americans. Fuhrman also told the therapists that he had beaten suspects on several occasions while working for the L.A.P.D. But Judge Ito decided to exclude all this evidence, despite its highly probative nature. The prosecution knew, therefore, that they could safely ignore this information since the jury would never hear it. A third source was a civil rights complaint accusing an officer named "Furman" (phonetic) of beating up minority suspects. This incident parallels in time and details one described in detail by Fuhrman on the tapes.

The prosecution also knew that Kathleen Bell was prepared to testify that Fuhrman had made racist statements to her, including his wish that all "n's" be rounded up and burned. But they also knew that Fuhrman would deny this and that Fuhrman was an experienced liar

who would seem credible to a jury. Prosecutors planned a devastating attack on Kathleen Bell's reputation and credibility, even though they knew there was information — kept from the jury by Judge Ito — which supported her contention. They were confident that the jury would believe Detective Mark Fuhrman in a "he said-she said" standoff. Juries almost always believe policemen when it is their word against that of an ordinary citizen who is inexperienced at testifying.

SWORD

Imagine how difficult the situation would be if the Fuhrman-McKinney tapes had not surfaced. It would be as if Rodney King had tried to prove he was beaten by L.A. police without the videotape. The prosecution in the Simpson case used Judge Ito's rul-

The Simpson prosecutors' decision to portray Detective Fuhrman as a truth-telling boy scout, despite the knowledge that he was a lying racist, is not what is unique about this case. Tragically, that is all too typical.

ing excluding Fuhrman's psychiatric reports not as a shield, but rather as a sword — to put on a witness who they knew was bad, but who they believed the defense could never prove was bad.

Now we have Fuhrman's own words on the tapes — at least the public does, since Judge Ito excluded nearly all of them from the jury. These tapes, and not the prosecution's knowledge of the truth, are what has caused the prosecution to shift gears. Without the tapes, they would have tried to ravage the reputations of all the witnesses who would dare to testify against Fuhrman. Prosecutors, police and private detectives harassed these witnesses and sent them a clear message: If they testify, they will be destroyed — and perhaps even indicted for perjury. This, despite the prosecutors' knowledge that they were almost certainly

telling the truth and Fuhrman lying. The actions of the Simpson prosecutors in threatening good Samaritan citizens who wanted to testify truthfully, while covering up for their own lying cop is a sad reflection on the Los Angeles District Attorney's office.

This situation raises important issues that transcend the Simpson case. In many cases, prosecutors know, suspect or have information that police witnesses are testifying falsely. But they also know that the judge and jury will probably believe the testifying cop, especially if the defendant appears guilty. Absent hard proof — an audio or videotape — prosecutors will often allow their perjuring police witness to testify, secure in the knowledge they won't get caught.

SHIELD

The Simpson prosecutors' decision to portray Detective Fuhrman as a truth-telling boy scout, despite the knowledge that he was a lying racist, is not what is unique about this case. Tragically, that is all too typical. What is unusual is that the defense managed to get hold of tapes that prove the prosecutors had known this all along.

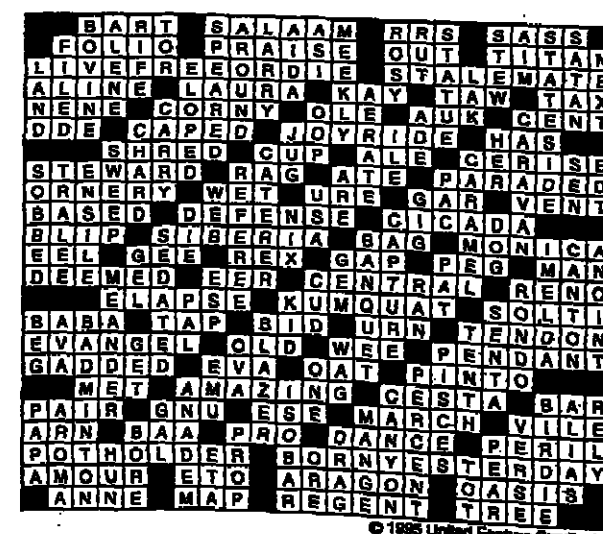
Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company) and is a member of the O.J. Simpson defense team.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

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هكذا من الامم

Jews of the Arctic step into the sun

The Jews of Siberia joining the aliya flow are leaving a colorful past behind, writes Abraham Rabinovich

ASHER Rosenthal will be spending this Shabbat in Tikst on the edge of the Arctic Ocean, the northernmost city on earth. It is not the coldest city on earth, a title that belongs to a town 200 kilometers south. Neither of these places is as isolated as another town in the area whose 50,000 residents are 800 kilometers from the nearest road.

What brings Rosenthal to these locales scattered across *ek vel* - the edge of the world - is the presence of Jews, or at least persons who qualify for immigration to Israel under the Law of Return. Two years ago, Rosenthal became the first Jewish Agency emissary to eastern Siberia.

The area, four times the size of Western Europe, is sandwiched between the Arctic and the Pacific. It is an expression for that vast, largely uninhabited area - between Russia's Western Siberia and the Russian Far East.

Rosenthal spends a third of his time in Irkutsk, the largest city in the region, where he has an apartment and office. The rest of the time he roams his fabled bailiwick.

"It has been the most interesting experience of my life," he said on a brief visit to Jerusalem last week to attend his daughter's wedding.

Although Siberia is generally regarded as off the Jewish map, Jews have in fact been living there for two centuries. Many came as exiles under the czars, others as pioneers or entrepreneurs.

The latter engaged in trading with China or in the trapping of sable for their furs or in mining. Under the Communists, thousands of Jewish prisoners who survived terms in the gulags remained in Siberia for lack of permits to return to their hometowns.

In more recent years, some Jewish professionals have voluntarily resided in Siberia because it was easier for them, as Jews, to find work in their fields there.

Over the years, Rosenthal estimates, as many as 100,000 Jews settled in Eastern Siberia or were exiled to it. However, intermarriage and falling birthrates drastically reduced their numbers. Today, he believes, there remain some 10,000 persons who qualify for immigration under the Law of Return.

The largest Jewish community, numbering some 4,000, is in Irkutsk which has the only active synagogue. But Jews are scattered all through the region including "closed cities," a hold-over from Soviet times, to which Rosenthal has not been able to gain access.



Jewish Agency emissary Asher Rosenthal plays around with Siberian youth in the summer camp he runs.

OF PARTICULAR interest is the town of Barguzin, 70 kilometers from Lake Baikal, a charming place of small wooden houses straddling a stream. This was the birthplace in 1873 of Moshe Novomeysky, founder of the Dead Sea Works.

In his autobiography, *My Siberian Life*, Novomeysky relates how his paternal grandfather reached Barguzin in the 1830s after marching four years with a band of other prisoners for some 6,000 kilometers. Sons over the age of five and daughters over the age of 10 were not permitted to join exiled Jewish parents. Thus his grandparents had to part from the only son they then had, aged 11.

It was not until 50 years later that the son obtained permission to visit Barguzin to find only his father still alive.

Once settled into the isolated villages to which they had been dispatched, the exiles had considerable latitude in building their lives. Barguzin became home to some of the most important political prisoners exiled by the czars.

Novomeysky's grandfather spent most of his time studying "old Hebrew books" but his enterprising wife sustained her family by shipping frozen fish from Lake Baikal to villages around Irkutsk, a four-day trip.

Novomeysky's father, born in Barguzin, expanded the business by shipping supplies to outlying mines which had begun to open in the region. The family became prosperous and had several servants in their substantial house, as well as a horse-breeding farm.

"One thing which pleased my children very much was the democratic attitude of my parents to their servants, who were all lads and girls from the peasant families around," wrote Novomeysky. "Whenever my mother

went away for any length of time, or returned, [she] and her girls always embraced and kissed."

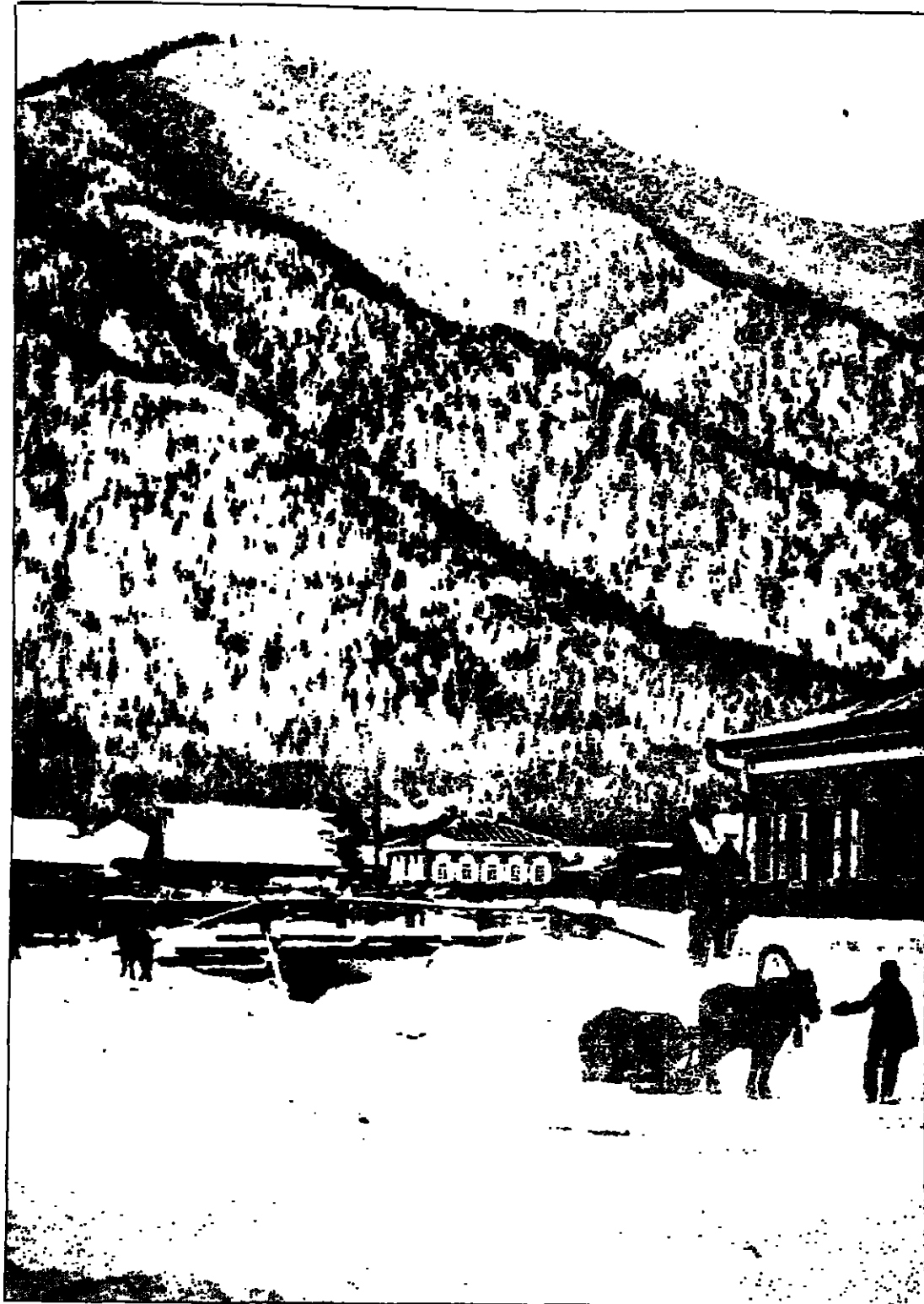
When their property was confiscated after the Communist revolution, Novomeysky's mother told her children there was no reason to be angry at the Communists. "We have lived well and wanted for nothing. Now their turn has come. They too want to enjoy a bit of well-being."

As a teenager, Novomeysky had been sent to technical school in Irkutsk. He studied mine engineering in Germany, only the third Siberian ever to go abroad for studies. Upon graduation, he engaged in gold mining in Siberia. He visited Palestine before World War I to look into the possibility of extracting minerals from the Dead Sea.

After the revolution, he left Siberia via Mongolia and the Gobi Desert, settling in Palestine in 1920. After a decade of efforts, he succeeded in obtaining a government from the Mandatory government for the establishment of the Palestine Potash Company on the Dead Sea, forerunner of one of Israel's major industrial enterprises.

WHEN ROSENTHAL first visited Barguzin, he found that most of the descendants of the town's Jews had intermarried, many with the native Buriats, a Mongol tribe predominant in the area. "The Buriats are lovely people," says Rosenthal, "and the Buriat women are pretty."

The militia chief whom Rosenthal met in Barguzin had a Buriat face but a Star of David was fixed to the outside of his home. His mother, he revealed, was Jewish and talked Yiddish. His father was a Buriat. When the Israeli emissary inquired about the number of Jews in town, the militia chief smiled. "That depends how



The picturesque town of Barguzin was the birthplace in 1873 of Moshe Novomeysky, founder of the Dead Sea Works.

you define a Jew: If one-eighth Jewish is a Jew, then everybody here is Jewish. There may be 30 families that are 100 percent Jewish." In the graveyard were tombstones with elaborate Hebrew epitaphs of the Novomeyskys and other Jewish families.

Although there are more Jews residing in a few blocks in New York City than in all of Eastern Siberia, Rosenthal nets many more immigrants than the average emissary in the US, some 500 to 600 a year. This despite the almost complete severance of the eligible population from its Jewish origins.

"We've caught them at the 99th minute," he says. "Ignorance is almost total. Eastern Siberia represents the extreme of the problem. If anyone can be accused of bringing non-Jews in as immigrants, it's me."

The aliya begins for many in the summer camp organized by Rosenthal in a lakeside location which he describes as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Youth with at least one Jewish grandparent are invited to attend

the camp for a modest fee if they can produce documents attesting to their Jewish background. "We don't accept documents from after 1990 for fear of forgery. That's when it became worthwhile to be a Jew" because of the chance this offered for emigration.

Some of the youths arrive in camp wearing gold crosses which they have especially bought for the occasion, aware only that Judaism is a religion and that the cross is a religious symbol. The intense *yiddishkeit* with which Rosenthal and his local assistants infuse the campers is a transforming experience, he says.

BUT IT is not ideology that brings Siberians of Jewish background to Israel, and there is virtually no antisemitism prodding them to leave. Nor are there economic motivations. "Almost all of them lower their standard of living when they come here," says Rosenthal. "The average family there has a three-room apartment in the center of their town, a dacha, a car, a refrigerator full of food, and high status.

In Israel, they will lower their standard of living, but regain it after a few years and even surpass it. Their status they will never regain."

What brings them to Israel, he says, is concern for the future. "They believe there is no future for young people there."

Most of the Irkutsk-area immigrants live in Ashdod and Ashkelon, including a former minister of the Autonomous Republic of Buriatia which embraces much of Eastern Siberia.

Rosenthal, who trained at the Mikve Yisrael Agricultural School, had served as an emissary in Panama and headed community centers in Israel for 20 years. He will be coming in from the cold at the end of the month when his Siberian tour ends and he returns to take up private employment in the computer field.

"Most people who live in a time of miracles don't realize it," he says of the revival of Judaism in the frozen tundra where the Sabbath had not been celebrated by Jews for three generations. "I believe this is such a period."

Keep bunny teeth fit to gnaw

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

RECENTLY, a very young reader in a village wrote to us about his rabbits. Because the problem was very pressing and because the letter was that of a child and lacked details, I telephoned him. I elicited the following story.

Two years ago, for his ninth birthday, his parents gave him a pair of rabbits. They are of the very small and lovely breed called "Himalayans" that have the mask and feet of a Siamese cat. They also gave him a state-of-the-art rabbit hutch. He loves his rabbits, he feeds them commercial rabbit chow and a lot of fresh vegetables. They have produced two fine litters of bunnies which he has sold to pet shops or traded with friends.

But during the last year, they have developed a problem. Their teeth in the front have grown so long that they cannot close their mouths. They have a problem with food. They eat only some of the greens, and no rabbit chow. They have become very thin and lethargic. He wants help.

Rabbits are rodents and, by definition, rodents are gnawers. These poor rabbits have been fed soft food with nothing to gnaw for at least two years. Of course, one cannot blame a child who knows nothing about their care, but these rabbits should have had a block of hard wood - olive or other - to gnaw on.

Rodent teeth are not like the teeth of other animals. They continue to grow throughout the life of the animal and, in proper conditions, the gnawing animal keeps its teeth short and sharp by gnawing on hard objects. Here we have caged rabbits with absolutely nothing to gnaw.

Right now the problem is serious and it must be solved by a visit to a good veterinary surgeon who will clip off part of the overgrown teeth, file the rest, and give proper advice for the future. This is not a situation that can be dealt with without expert care.

But beyond the immediate problem, we must once again appeal to parents. Owning a pet is an educational experience for a child. However, a child must know what to do in order to care for a pet properly. Disappointment arising from inadequate care is most uneducational. Parents would never operate a new food processor without reading the instructions - yet they actually think that caring for a living animal is less complicated.

My advice is to take the rabbits to a good veterinary facility and to then provide them with proper material for gnawing and, incidentally, some salt blocks. You and your child will benefit from both the experience and the new knowledge.

Pets both entertain and educate, but only when they are healthy and properly cared for.

He fought for the lives of Jews and Druse

THERE AND THEN
SHAYLA SHAPIRO

RABBI Shlomo Tagger was a brave man and his riding skills served him well on that day in October, 70 years ago, when he rode alone to a Druse village east of Damascus where seven Jewish youths were to be hanged the following morning. Rabbi Tagger, then chief rabbi of the Syrian Jews, was on a mission to save the young men.

It was at the height of the Jebel Druse rebellion against the French. Two contingents of Druse fighters - one comprising more than 40 men, the other 200 - had infiltrated the Syrian capital. They set a housing estate afire, and when the flames jumped across the street several houses in the adjacent Jewish Quarter were gutted. There was looting, and some Jews were murdered. The seven young men Rabbi Tagger had come to rescue were accused of siding with the French.

We are indebted to Shimon Rubinstein for describing these events in his contribution to a recent issue of *Et-Mol*, the bi-monthly historical review edited by Shlomo Shva for Tel Aviv University and the Education Ministry. Rabbi Tagger was a native of Jerusalem, where his father had presided over the Sephardi religious courts. Having studied rabbinical law in local yeshivot, the rabbi then traveled to Russian Tashkent where he served the Bukharan Jewish community - Russian was one of a dozen languages he spoke.

While the Jews of European Russia were being subjected to post-revolutionary pogroms, the Jews of Asian Russia were enduring antisemitism of a more medieval character. When the Moslem and Orthodox Christian clergy of the region pressed the

authorities for a ban on ritual slaughter, Rabbi Shlomo emulated his 15th-century forebears and challenged his opponents to a debate. He won.

His victory, alas, was short-lived. A few years later the governor of Turkestan ordered all Jews out of the province. Again, it was Tagger who led the struggle. He made the journey to Saint Petersburg, pleaded with the authorities and made his case. The governor's ban was rescinded.

With Russia changing in the aftermath of the Revolution, Rabbi Shlomo decided it was time to go home.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann suggested that Tagger head the department of the Zionist Organization in Jerusalem charged with interpreting Zionism to the Arabs. However, while the idea was being discussed, Tagger was appointed chief rabbi of Beirut. He stayed in Lebanon three years before assuming his post in Damascus.

Hardly a year had gone by before the Druse rebellion erupted. It was then that Rabbi Tagger's personality asserted itself, says Rubinstein. He made contact with the Druse leaders, who assured him the rebels had no quarrel with the Jews. To prove it, they encouraged volunteers to help the Jews to extinguish fires and carry their belongings to a safe area.

These were difficult times. Circassians serving in the French army destroyed Druse villages, and the Druse reacted by killing Circassians and some Armenians, whom they accused of

helping the French. But Rabbi Tagger was greeted with respect when he reached Jirama, the village where the seven accused Jewish youths were held, and he was allowed to take them back to Damascus.

The French crushed the rebellion, but the problems of the 9,500-strong Jewish community in Damascus were far from over. As soon as the roads were passable, the majority of Damascus's Jews left for Beirut. Rabbi Tagger did his best for those who remained behind.

In Jerusalem, Col. Kisch of the Zionist Organization sent his press officer, Gershon Agronsky, to Damascus to inquire about the state of the Jewish community, of which there had been no news

during the rebellion. Agronsky (who went on to found *The Palestine Post* in 1932) brought back the Tagger story, as well as the rabbi's request for help. Kisch replied that the Zionist Organization had no money, but said he would transmit Tagger's entreaty to the world's Jewish communities. We are not told of the response. Tagger's appeal for eight million francs, addressed to Alliance Israelite Universelle, was met with a donation of 20,000 francs.

When the Zionist Organization declined an offer by the French High Commissioner of Syria to settle Jews in Palmyra, life became harder still for the Jews of Damascus. While the local leadership remained silent - hoping the troubles would cease if ignored - Rabbi Shlomo spoke out.

He resigned his post in 1929 and six years later, at 70, he was dead.

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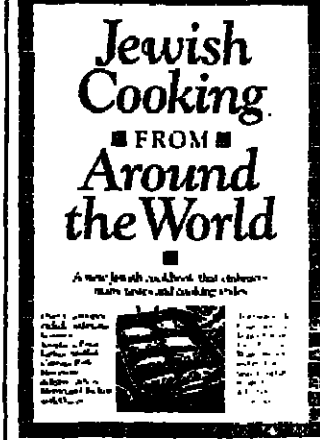
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LA GLITTER - Lazy Seckbach heads for Southern California.



WIDE OPEN SPACES - Avi Alalouf has enrolled at Northwest Junior College in Wyoming.

Pair of Israeli hoopsters set to sharpen skills in the USA

CHARLES HARRIS

AVI Alalouf and Eliezer "Lazy" Seckbach have different backgrounds, but their ultimate goals are the same. Each wants to play in Israel's top professional basketball league and both are going to America to do something about it.

Alalouf and Seckbach are headed to play college basketball in the United States with the hope of one day returning to conquer Israeli hoops. For now though, competing at a division I University has been put on hold while each learns the ropes at different junior colleges.

Alalouf, who recently finished his army service, is headed to Northwest Junior College in Wyoming.

"They say American college basketball is the best tool to play here in Israel," said Alalouf. "As far as I know, it's a good school. I checked it out with some people and they told me it has a good basketball program and a sound educational setup."

At 6-foot-6 and 21 years old, Alalouf drew attention from Arizona State, Clemson, San

Jose State and Tulsa. Most of the schools however, have already committed their available scholarships for the 1995-96 season, leaving the junior college route the only practical option.

Alalouf's Israeli career included stints with Hapoel Jerusalem (youth league) and Hapoel Petah Tikvah. More recently, he practiced with Maccabi Ramat Gan.

"While I think I could manage at the top level here, I am not only thinking about basketball, but what is going to happen when I am 35," he added. "The degree is just as important to me. Northwest has a good tourism program and that would work well in Israel."

At the same time Alalouf is honing his skills, Seckbach will have a homecoming of sorts when he begins his collegiate basketball career at Los Angeles Valley Junior College in Southern California.

Seckbach's grandparents live in Los Angeles.

When he was a youngster, they would take him to watch games at the very college in which he is now enrolled.

"For my grandfather, it will be like closing a circle," said Seckbach, who also played one year of high school hoops. He was on the junior varsity at Valley Torah (Los Angeles) when he was in 10th grade.

Seckbach, who is a 5-foot-10 guard with playing experience for Maccabi Jerusalem's youth team, may well find his greatest college challenge to be off the court.

Seckbach is observant, and will doubtless encounter difficulties of playing games during Shabbat. "The toughest part will be getting to away games," he says. "Some of the religious players in Israel walk to the gym and then play. But in LA, that's out of the question."

Whether he will play on Shabbat is not, however, a question to which he has devoted much time. The experience of playing US college ball has consumed him to the point that his only response to the Shabbat question is, "When I get to that bridge, I will cross it."

CHICAGO (AP) - Vince Coleman had four hits and scored on an odd overdrive, helping Andy Benes and the Seattle Mariners move into the wild-card lead Friday night with a 3-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

The Mariners, who won for the sixth time in seven games, moved one game ahead of New York, which lost in Baltimore 8-1.

After a leadoff triple in the eighth, Seattle's bullpen preserved the one-run lead when Jeff Nelson struck out Frank Thomas, Lee Guetterman fanned Robin Ventura and Bill Risley struck out Lyle Mouton. Norm Chadborn pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Coleman doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh. He also reached on a walk and stole two bases. Earlier, he scored from third when first baseman Dave Martinez overthrew Jason Bere (7-13) while returning the ball.

The Mariners are 8-1 in the nine games started by Benes (5-1) since he was traded from San Diego on July 31.

Ortels 8, Yankees 1
Bobby Bonilla hit a grand slam and Rafael Palmeiro had a three-run shot, powering the Baltimore Orioles past New York and dropping the Yankees into second place in the wild-card chase.

The Yankees' third loss in 11 games dropped them one game behind Seattle for the wild-card spot. Scott Erickson pitched an eight-inning shutout for the Orioles, who managed only five hits but took advantage of 12 walks. Erickson (11-10) pitched his team-high fifth complete game of the season.

Palmeiro hit his 36th homer in the first off Sterling Hitchcock (8-10). Bonilla's fourth career slam came in the sixth off Mariano Rivera.

Tigers 3, Rangers 2
Cecil Fielder hit the 250th home run of his career and the Detroit Tigers stopped Texas' five-game winning streak. The Rangers fell two games behind Seattle for the wild-card spot.

Red Sox 6, Indians 3
Mo Vaughn hit a three-run homer during a five-run eighth inning, sending Boston over Cleveland. The Red Sox reduced their magic number for clinching the AL East to four.

Vaughn's home run temporarily tied him with Cleveland's Albert Belle for the league lead. Belle moved ahead again in the ninth with his second home run of the game and his 39th of the year.

The sellout crowd of 41,833 pushed the Indians' season attendance to a franchise-record 2,634,139, surpassing the mark of 2,620,627 set in 1994. Jacobs Field has been sold out 52 times this season, including the last 47 in a row.

Erik Hanson (14-5) gave up five hits in eight innings as the Red Sox won for the second time in their last

eight games. Reliever Alan Embree (2-2) took the loss.

Brewers 5, Blue Jays 1 (15)
The two-time World Series champion Toronto Blue Jays were officially eliminated from playoff contention, falling in 15 innings for their seventh straight loss.

The Blue Jays, who won the Series in 1992 and 1993, likely would've had their streak stopped last year, but the strike ended the season.

Toronto never challenged for the AL East championship or the wild-card spot this year, either. The Blue Jays' seventh straight loss in extra innings left them 52-78, the second-worst record in the league.

Mark Kiefer (4-1) pitched five scoreless innings. He allowed two hits and struck out six. Ken Robinson (1-2) was the loser.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Reds 3, Braves 1

Eddie Perez hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning - his first major-league hit - to power visiting Atlanta. Perez, a catcher making his first major-league start, was one of several reserves in the lineup as the Braves rested injured starters after clinching the NL East title Wednesday.

Rockies 6, Marlins 3

Joe Girardi slipped a two-run single that triggered a four-run seventh inning for host Colorado, which posted its 11th victory in 15 games to remain one game in front of Los Angeles in the NL West.

Walt Weiss and pinch-hitter John Vander Wal opened the seventh with singles off John Burkett (13-12). It was Vander Wal's 24th pinch hit this season, leaving him one shy of the major-league record set by Montreal's Jose Morales in 1976.

Mets 4, Phillies 1
Todd Hundley drove in three runs and rookie Jason Iiringhausen allowed only one run despite giving up a career-high 13 hits as New York extended its winning streak to three games.

Iringhausen (7-2) went 7 1/2 innings to win his fifth straight, striking out six without a walk. John Franco pitched the ninth for his 24th save.

Giants 4, Pirates 2

Matt Williams' two-run single in the top of the 10th helped San Francisco and its three-game losing streak.

FRIDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Atlanta 3, Cincinnati 1
New York 4, Philadelphia 1
Colorado 6, Florida 3
San Francisco 4, Pittsburgh 2 (10)
Los Angeles 7, St. Louis 4
Houston 7, Montreal 3
Chicago 6, San Diego 2

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Cincinnati 8, San Diego 1
Philadelphia 7, Pittsburgh 2
New York 4, Houston 2
Only games scheduled

FRIDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Boston 6, Cleveland 2
Detroit 3, Texas 2
Seattle 3, Chicago 2
Baltimore 5, New York 1
Milwaukee 5, Toronto 1 (15)
Kansas City 4, California 0
Oakland 6, Minnesota 5

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Kansas City 5, Oakland 4
Cleveland 5, Boston 3
Milwaukee 6, Detroit 3
Texas 6, Toronto 1
New York 5, Baltimore 4

Finch-hitter John Patterson opened the inning with a single off Mike Dyer (4-4). Dan Plesac walked Deion Sanders before a bunt advanced both runners. Barry Bonds was walked intentionally and Williams grounded a single to left off Dan Miceli.

Dodgers 7, Cardinals 6
Eric Karros hit his third run-scoring single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to end St. Louis' six-game winning streak.

The Dodgers survived blowing a three-run lead in the eighth to win for the eighth time in 11 games.

The loss was the first decision of the year for Tom Henke, who leads the National League with 33 saves. It was Henke's 48th appearance.

Chad Foyville singled with one out in the ninth, stole second with two outs and scored on Karros' single up the middle. Karros has 15 RBIs in his last 14 games.

Astros 7, Expos 3

Pinch-hitter Derrick May drove in the go-ahead run and Andy Stanekiewicz added a two-run single in visiting Houston's three-run seventh.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	65	48	.571	-
Philadelphia	62	55	.528	7
Montreal	61	58	.512	20.5
New York	59	70	.457	22.5
Florida	58	70	.453	23

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	68	51	.571	-
Houston	65	53	.551	12
Chicago	64	54	.540	13.5
St. Louis	58	73	.442	22
Pittsburgh	58	77	.433	26

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Colorado	68	50	.576	-
Los Angeles	68	51	.571	1
San Diego	62	67	.481	7.5
San Francisco	58	67	.461	7.5

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	76	51	.595	-
New York	67	55	.549	11.5
Baltimore	60	70	.462	18.5
Detroit	56	73	.434	22
Toronto	52	78	.400	25.5

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	60	60	.500	-
Kansas City	62	63	.496	24
Minnesota	62	67	.481	27.5
Chicago	58	69	.451	30
Minnesota	48	78	.378	40.5

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	67	52	.562	-
Seattle	66	52	.558	4
Texas	65	54	.538	6
Oakland	62	66	.477	10

***clinched division title**

WILD CARD GLANCE

National League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	68	51	.571	-
Houston	65	53	.551	2.5
Philadelphia	62	55	.528	4
Chicago	64	54	.540	4
San Diego	62	57	.481	6.5
San Francisco	62	57	.481	6.5

AL American League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	68	52	.562	-
New York	67	53	.558	1
Kansas City	65	53	.550	2
Texas	65	54	.538	2
Toronto	62	67	.481	5.5
Oakland	62	68	.477	6

Falling apart: The sad tale of the New York Jets

NEW YORK (AP) - What does it take to root for the New York Jets?

More perseverance than should be required of any human.

The litany of the team's failures in the last decade is almost overwhelming, perhaps unmatched in pro sports. Some years, the Jets have been valid playoff contenders, only to disappear in an avalanche of mistakes that strain credulity. Countless losing streaks caused in part by serious injuries and poor coaching - but mainly by inexcusable collapses on the field and discord off it - have destroyed virtually every season in the last decade.

And the manner in which the Jets fall apart is equally unbelievable.

Last week's 27-24 overtime loss to Indianapolis is a perfect example, the latest slip in a string of stumbles the franchise carries like some curse hovering over the Meadowlands - or wherever they happen to be playing. The Jets held a 24-3 lead in the third quarter, in complete control. Yet they let the Colts come back, greatly aiding the cause with three fumbles and costly penalties. They couldn't stop second-string quarterback Jim Harbaugh.

"This is the toughest kind of loss you can fight back from," said center Cal Dixon, now in his fourth season under the Jets' Jim. "As a football player, it doesn't get any worse than that."

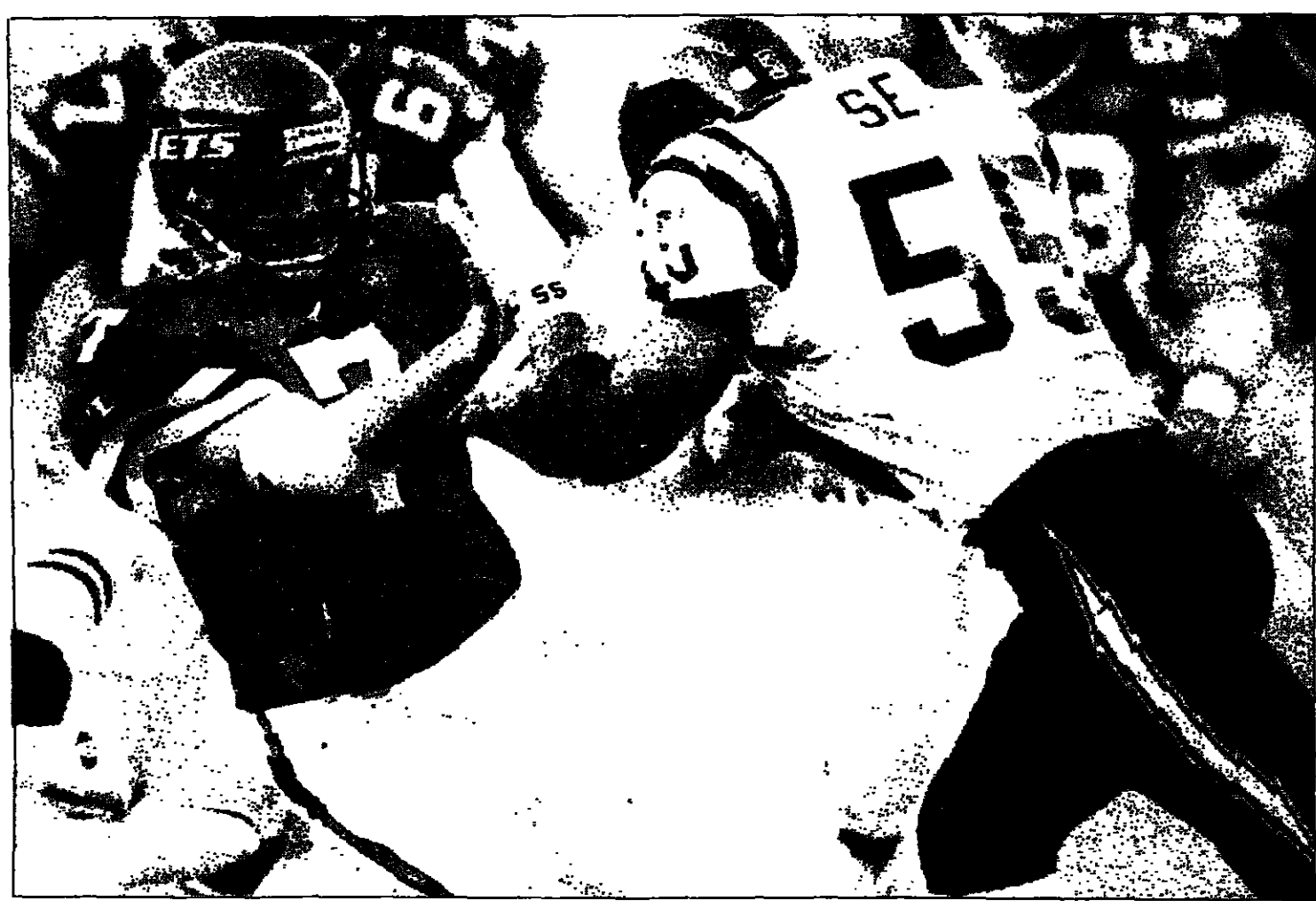
"I've seen it happen before and it's constantly in your mind that you don't want to see it happen again."

Yet it happens, again and again. Such as:

● The Jets lead the Dolphins 24-6 in the third quarter of Game 12 last season. A victory ties New York for the AFC East lead and can serve as a springboard to the team's first NFL division title.

Instead, they collapse. Embarrassingly, the winning touchdown comes when Dan Marino fakes a spike, the defense relaxes, and he hits Mark Ingram in the end zone.

"A terrible way to lose," linebacker Bobby Houston says. New York loses its last five



LOWERING THE BOOM - Jets QB Boomer Esiason is hit by San Diego Chargers linebacker Junior Seau in last season's action. (AP)

games to finish 6-10, and coach Pete Carroll is fired.

● Two years ago, Bruce Coslet loses the head coaching spot when his team blows its final three games and four of the last five while in the wild-card race.

In consecutive weeks, they fall to the Eagles and Raiders after building big leads. Just like against Indianapolis last week, a backup quarterback looks like a Hall of Famer.

Bobby Brister, now a Jet, replaces injured Randall Cunningham and engineers a rally from a 21-0 deficit. Although Boomer Esiason has four touchdown passes, he throws an interception that Eric Allen returns 94 yards for the winning touchdown.

The next week, Vince Evans

comes in and throws for two touchdowns as the Raiders overcame a 17-0 hole. Nick Bell scores with four seconds left to win it.

"It really hurts when you keep losing that way," receiver Rob Moore says.

In the season finale, the Jets need a victory at Houston - which has clinched the AFC Central and has little to play for - to get into the playoffs. They lose 24-0 in one of their worst efforts under Coslet, who is fired a few days later.

● In 1991, the Jets have the Bears beaten on Monday night. Of course, if there is time left, there is a way the Jets can use it to disintegrate.

With less than two minutes re-

maining, New York is trying to run out the clock when Blair Thomas fumbles. The Bears, led by that man Harbaugh, tie it on a 6-yard pass to Neal Anderson as the clock expires.

In overtime, always-reliable Pat Leahy misses a 28-yard field goal. Harbaugh later sneaks in from the 1 to win it.

"We've got to learn to put teams away," Coslet says.

But they don't. Later that year, the Colts win their only game by rallying from a 14-0 deficit for a 23-27 win at Giants Stadium.

To be fair, there have been some stimulating wins. They came from behind to beat Miami in the season finale of '91 and grabbed a wild-card spot. In 1992, using a near-paralyzing injury to Dennis Byrd the previous

week as inspiration, they won in Buffalo.

Those successes are rare. More common is the way the Jets finished 1986, when a nine-game winning streak gave them a 10-1 record, best in the NFL. Then such starters as Joe Klecko, Mark Gastineau, Lance Mehl, Marty Lyons and Reggie McElroy went down with injuries, and the last five games were losses.

But they still made the playoffs and beat Kansas City. At Cleveland, the Jets had 20-10 lead with 4:14 left. Of course, they couldn't hold it, with a roughing-the-passer penalty on Gastineau leading to 23-20 loss in double overtime.

That was the beginning of a decade of disappointment. It isn't likely to end with the latest lapse. (AP)

The 'Joisey' Bombers?

NEW YORK (AP) - The state government of New Jersey has drafted a proposal to build a 50,000-seat baseball stadium in the Meadowlands, sports complex for the New York Yankees baseball team, The New York Times reported Friday.

One unidentified official familiar with plans of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority said the agency is "definitely interested" in having the Yankees in New Jersey, the newspaper said.

However, the authority, a governmental agency which owns and operates the Meadowlands complex where World Cup games were played last year at Giants Stadium, does not want to be seen as attempting to steal the team from its landmark home in the Bronx, borough of New York City, the official said.

As a result, the authority does not want to make a formal proposal to Yankees club owner George Steinbrenner until he declares he is considering moving the team across the Hudson River to New Jersey. Steinbrenner met with the head of the authority, Michael Francis, late last month and Steinbrenner is aware of the proposal, the paper said.

A spokeswoman for New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Deirdra Picon, said keeping the Yankees in the Bronx "doesn't appear to be a closed issue."

The plan to build a new stadium in New Jersey comes as the latest in a long debate over the future of the Yankees and Yankee Stadium. Steinbrenner, whose lease with the city expires in 2002, has rejected numerous proposals by New York for improvements to the stadium, including new parking facilities.

Authority officials estimate that their plan would cost about \$400 million for the stadium, parking lots, access ramps and a rail spur to the Meadowlands.

Chantal brothers crowned outstanding sportsmen

HEATHER CHAIT

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin crowned sailmen Ran and Nir Chantal as Sportsmen of the Year last night at a glittering function in Tel Aviv.

For the past four years, the brothers, 24 and 26 respectively, have ruled Israel's waters, winning the national championship in the Olympic 470 class.

Last month, they achieved their most noteworthy result, passing the Olympic criterion by taking the bronze medal in the world championships in Canada.

In his speech, Rabin stated that the brothers' success has helped to redeem Israel from the crippling 7-0 defeat handed out to Hapoel Beersheba by Barcelona saying, "We shouldn't be seen as not achieving big results because of our small size." He bemoaned the absence of emphasis on excellence and called for an all-out effort by both sportsmen and sup-

porters for a successful showing in next year's Atlanta Olympic Games.

Baril, outstanding sportsmen in 17 disciplines were awarded trophies. These were: Ya'acov Shmuel, boxing; Leonid Fogash, badminton; Yaron Kolesnik, archery; Maya Shani, gymnastics; Issak Abramov, table tennis; Nissan Bejinski, rowing; Tzahi Elbaz, volleyball; Lior Carmi, kayaking; Shai Yaffe, handball; Yoav Bruck, swimming; Yossi Ben Gal, water polo; Guecia Chichashvili, wrestling; Viachislav Ivanofsky, weightlifting; Rinat Yaron, judo; Rogel Nahum athletics; Lydia Hatoel-Zukerman, fencing and Guy Stark, shooting.

Three young sportsman with world titles this year were also acknowledged: Amir Levinson, windsurfing and Ze'ev Kalaf and Elad Ronen, both in the 470 class.

55-10-10

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.0466	+0.08%
Sterling ... NIS 4.7178	+0.08%
Mark ... NIS 2.0451	-0.14%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	4797.57	+2.30
S&P 500	4797.57	+2.30
NASDAQ	1049.66	+0.15
NYSE	1049.66	+0.15
AMEX	1049.66	+0.15

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100, Nikkei, Hang Seng, etc.

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3894.5	+0.10
Nikkei	12795.5	+0.10
Hang Seng	7897.4	+0.10
Hong Kong	1049.66	+0.15

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE/AMEX Israeli stocks

Stock	Last	Change
Amir	1.50	+0.02
Amir A	1.50	+0.02
Amir B	1.50	+0.02
Amir C	1.50	+0.02

Libor rates

3 months, 6 months, 12 months

Rate	Last	Change
3 months	5.81%	-0.01%
6 months	5.81%	-0.01%
12 months	5.81%	-0.01%

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds

INTL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Cocoa, Coffee, Sugar, etc.

Commodity	Last	Change
Cocoa	1295	+0.10
Coffee	1295	+0.10
Sugar	1295	+0.10

London commodities

Cocoa, Coffee, Sugar, etc.

Commodity	Last	Change
Cocoa	1295	+0.10
Coffee	1295	+0.10
Sugar	1295	+0.10

Spot market metals (US)

Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

Metal	Last	Change
Gold	389.45	+0.10
Silver	4.7178	+0.08%

New York metal futures

Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

Metal	Last	Change
Gold	389.45	+0.10
Silver	4.7178	+0.08%

London metal futures

Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

Metal	Last	Change
Gold	389.45	+0.10
Silver	4.7178	+0.08%

Market drops FTSE down 0.8

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks ended lower Friday after a volatile session...

than blue chips, hammered by weakness in computer-company shares.

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares closed barely changed as disappointing US data and a lower Dow spoiled a market attempt to close at another all-time peak.

FRANKFURT - A stable dollar and price movements related to the options expiry on the DTF helped shares end the floor trade higher.

Stocks defy 'Black September'

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - So much for the September slump theory. Investors who bet on the historical dip in stocks this month have been disappointed.

William Dodge, a market strategist at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., says the Dow Jones industrial average set record closing highs three times this week.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (14.9.95)

Currency	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
US dollar	4.750	4.625	4.750
Swiss franc	2.825	2.825	2.825

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.9.95)

Currency basket, US dollar, German mark, etc.

Currency	Buy	Sell
US dollar	3.4029	3.4572
German mark	2.0200	2.0587

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with multiple columns: Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg. Includes sections for NEW YORK, LONDON, and PARIS.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Flexible

Table with columns: Fund's name, Unit cost, Redemption price, Monthly yield, etc.

Shares

Table with columns: Fund's name, Unit cost, Redemption price, Monthly yield, etc.

State Bonds

Table with columns: Fund's name, Unit cost, Redemption price, Monthly yield, etc.

Company Bonds

Table with columns: Fund's name, Unit cost, Redemption price, Monthly yield, etc.

FOREIGN CURRENCY

Table with columns: Currency, Rate, etc.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Fund's name, Unit cost, Redemption price, Monthly yield, etc.

CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 15-SEP-95)

SOURCE: METAV Ltd. - Managers of Mutual Funds and Security Investments. DATE: 15-SEP-95

Iraqi infiltrators sent back to Jordan

AN Iraqi family including a two-month-old baby were returned to Jordan last night after they managed to sneak into the country illegally via the Jordanian border.

This was the first time an entire family had snuck across over.

Equipped with documents, warm clothing, drinks and milk for the baby, the three left Jordan Friday night at about 9:30. They walked several hours until arriving at about 3 a.m. at Moshav Neot Hakikar in the Arava, where they hid in some bushes. The illegal entry went undetected.

At dawn, the three noticed a moshav member walking near

AMIR ROZENBLIT

them and turned themselves in to him. Yossi Mizrahi, the moshav security officer, was called to the scene and heard from the couple what had happened.

Before long, police and the IDF were called to the scene, while the mother and baby were taken care of at the Mizrahi family's home. She was allowed to shower, and was given a change of clothes and breakfast.

The parents were taken for questioning in the afternoon, and told their interrogators that they had decided to leave Jordan after the woman had been raped. To

back their claim, they submitted Jordanian newspaper clippings about the incident.

The woman's husband said he had been angered by the way the Jordanian police had handled the matter, which convinced him to seek a better life in Israel.

The family lived in Batzra, near the Kuwaiti border, and the husband had served in the Iraqi army until about a year ago but he decided to go AWOL after his conditions worsened.

There has been an increase recently in the number of Iraqis and Jordanians looking for work who are crossing the border from Jordan. Most are ordered deported.

Shas demands cutting all Histadrut funds to Na'amat

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SHAS'S Histadrut faction intends to demand that the labor organization halt all funding to Na'amat and cut the wages of Na'amat senior officials at today's Histadrut executive session.

Shas Histadrut faction chairman David Tal said last week that the reason for Shas's demand is the exorbitant wages of Na'amat's section heads, which he claimed are much higher than those earned by their Histadrut counterparts.

Na'amat chairperson Ofra Friedman called Tal's demand "provocative" adding that Na'amat's section heads renounced wage raises in order to contribute to the Histadrut's recovery.

She added that if anything, Na'amat's senior officials earn less than the Histadrut's and said she would be only "too pleased" if the Na'amat wages were equal to those earned by male counterparts in the Histadrut.

Last year, Histadrut executive

members who were also section heads were paid an average of NIS 15,000 to NIS 20,000, depending on duties, seniority and additional expenses. Ramon said he would slash their wages to less than a Knesset member's, or about NIS 10,000. Executive members without defined duties earn significantly less.

At the time, Friedman demanded equal wages for Na'amat section heads, who she said earned much less.

Na'amat sources suspect the real reason behind Shas's demand is Friedman's call at last week's executive session to "take religion out of the Histadrut and to close down the Histadrut's religious department, which is headed by Shas."

Friedman demanded that the Histadrut's religious department's missionary activities be stopped, following Shas's initia-

tive to market radio and video cassettes of Shas's spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Shas, with Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon's approval, is planning to open religion cassette libraries in work places all over the country, "to put some spirituality into workers' lives."

Executive member Binyamin Gonen joined Friedman's demand to close down the religious department, noting that "this department deals only with the religious needs of the Jews, and not with those of Histadrut members belonging to other religions. In the State of Israel, where there is a well organized Religious Affairs Ministry with large resources, why should the Histadrut maintain its own separate religious department?"

Ramon blasted Friedman, whom he called "impertinent" for her suggestion, and stated that "the Histadrut has a mandate to spread the Torah."



German President Roman Herzog gets flowers from pupils at the new Jewish grade school that opened Friday in Berlin. (AP)

First Jewish school erected in Berlin since World War II

BERLIN (AP) - Built for a fast-growing immigrant population, the first new Jewish school in Berlin since World War II was dedicated Friday and described as a miracle given what Nazi Germany did to wipe out European Jews.

The dedication of the still-incomplete but functioning building had practically the rank of a solemn national ceremony. Speakers included President Roman Herzog and a guest list of top city officials, diplomats, scholars and Holocaust survivors.

Herzog said the design of Israeli architect Zvi Hecker "breathes fantasy," and the school's enrollment of non-Jews as well as Jewish children was "a welcome symbol of opening and tolerance."

"Measured against what was inflicted on Jews in our land, there is a miracle in the pure fact that there is again a new Jewish school in Berlin," the head of state said.

After the Holocaust, only about 5,000 Jews remained in Berlin, a tiny fraction of the 1930 population of 173,000 that needed 22 schools to educate its children.

The Jewish population, mostly older people, was in danger of dying out until the fall of communism brought immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Berlin's Jewish community now numbers about

10,000, including young families.

About 29,000 Jewish immigrants have come to Germany since the late 1980s, the Jewish community says. The number in the country is about 50,000 - around a tenth of the number of Jews in Germany before the Nazis took over.

A historic Jewish high school was renovated and reopened in Berlin several years ago, but the Jewish community still needed a new grade school.

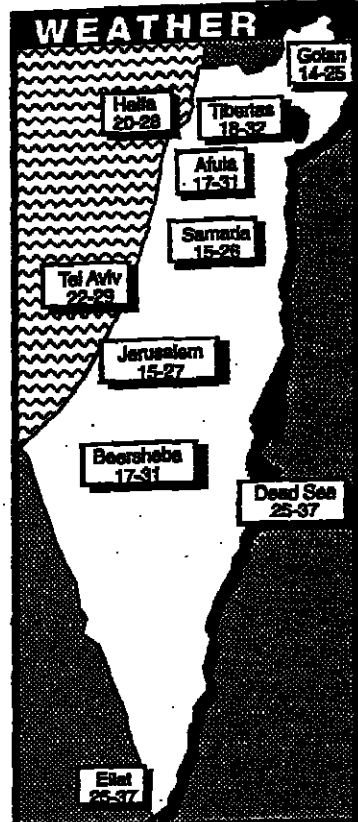
Named after the late Heinz Galinski, an Auschwitz survivor who headed the Berlin Jewish community and was chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the new school has 218 pupils and can have 420 when it is finished.

The curriculum at the school in the western district of Charlottenburg includes Hebrew and Jewish studies in addition to regular German school fare.

"We are not only a Jewish school," said Principal Norma Drimmer. "We are also a microcosm of a multinational society."

Like other Jewish institutions in Germany, the school will have strong police protection. Extreme rightists have burned a synagogue in Luebeck during neo-Nazi violence.

Despite the threat, the Jewish community is likely to grow.



Forecast: Normal temperatures for the season.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH
Amsterdam	11	18
Berlin	12	19
Bombay	24	32
Brussels	11	18
Cairo	16	24
Copenhagen	11	18
Frankfurt	12	19
Hamburg	11	18
Hong Kong	24	32
London	11	18
Los Angeles	16	24
Madrid	11	18
Moscow	11	18
Munich	12	19
New York	11	18
Paris	11	18
Rome	11	18
Sydney	16	24
Tel Aviv	16	24
Tokyo	16	24
Zurich	11	18

Winning cards

In Friday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, king of hearts, king of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Negev police hunt teacher suspected of sexual assault

AMIR ROZENBLIT

NEGEV police are searching for a teacher at a Negev yeshiva suspected of sodomizing one of his pupils and sexually abusing another one.

A counselor at the same yeshiva was arrested last week for assaulting another pupil and breaking his arm. He was released on bail.

The counselor was detained following a report from the social welfare agencies in a southern town. The 13-year-old boy was questioned by Beersheba police, who said the counselor had twisted his arm as punishment for wild behavior during the summer vacation.

He said he did not report the incident to anyone at the yeshiva, for fear the counselor, who also teaches there, would give him low grades.

During the questioning, he told police he knew of another teacher who had sexually assaulted two other pupils. The two were located and questioned, and admitted they had been victims of such abuse.

The two also said they had told the principal about what happened, and the principal had fired the teacher. Police over the weekend said they are searching for the teacher to arrest him.

Police also questioned the principal, and have recommended he be indicted for neglecting to report the abuse of minors under his care.

Health Ministry workers postpone strike

JUDY SIEGEL

SOME 2,000 Health Ministry workers agreed Friday to postpone until further notice a strike that they were going to launch this morning despite restraining orders issued last week by the Jerusalem Labor Court.

Union leader Rami Hashash and Histadrut officials met with Health Minister Ephraim Sneh in Tel Aviv on Friday. It was agreed that Yossi Kucik, the treasury's wage director, will meet today with representatives to discuss their wage demands.

The workers, who work in district health offices, ministry headquarters and labs, held a 10-day strike over two weeks ago, and suspended it to resume negotiations. The talks proved fruitless, however.

Israel can help rebuild eastern Europe

Israel can play a major role in helping rebuild the economies of the former communist eastern European states, the head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said Friday.

"I want to work more with you," EBRD president Jacques de Larosiere, who also heads France's central bank, told officials and business leaders, at a luncheon in Tel Aviv sponsored by the Israeli Export Institute.

De Larosiere, who is here on a four-day visit, signed an agreement with the Israel Foreign Trade Insurance Company on Thursday aimed at guaranteeing Israeli investment in the region. The bank

also undertook to provide Israeli firms with more information on investment possibilities.

De Larosiere said Israelis are particularly well-suited to the business climate of eastern Europe because many of them have origins in that area and speak its languages.

Israel has one of the world's strongest economies and has acquired much experience in setting up advanced industries, he added.

The EBRD was established in 1991, after the fall of communism, to help spur business in eastern Europe. It has a capital of \$10 billion which it is seeking to double in coming years, de Larosiere said. (Iim)

Yosef Avidar buried at Mt. Herzl

FORMER deputy chief of staff and ambassador Yosef Avidar was buried Friday with full military honors in Jerusalem. He died Wednesday at age 89.

"Today we are departing from our big brother, who was one of the last of the great men who witnessed the birth of the Hagana, the IDF and Israel's security services," Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said at the Mt. Herzl military cemetery.

Hundreds of people attended the funeral, including former senior IDF officers and chiefs of staff. (Iim)

6 dead in car accidents

SIX people were killed in weekend road accidents, bringing to 20 the number killed on the roads this week.

A 60-year-old Hebron man was run over by a bus on the Hebron-Jerusalem road, while a four-year-old girl died after being hit by a car near Kabatiya in Samaria.

Last night a woman soldier from Acre died when the car she was driving in hit a tree on the Nahariya-Acre road. One man was killed and two injured in an accident on the Ma'aleh Amos-Efrat road when a truck driven by a Palestinian smashed into an Israeli car. The driver of the car, an Israeli Arab, was killed and two passengers injured.

Early yesterday morning, two women from Kibbutz Afikim

were killed and five people suffered light to serious injuries on the road between Tzemah and Afikim.

The accident occurred when a car traveling towards Beit She'an tried to pass when the road was not clear, and crashed into another car coming in the opposite direction.

More than 45 people were seriously injured in last week's accidents. Police suspended the licenses of 416 drivers for various traffic offenses.

Meanwhile, police reported that accidents dropped by almost a quarter in August compared to last year, the first time in a long while there has been a significant drop. Since the beginning of the year, 486 people have been killed on the roads. (Iim)

Sarid spends clean-up drive diving for trash

RACHEL NEIMAN

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid donned scuba gear and went diving "for the first time in his life." Friday as part of Gulf Clean-Up Day in Eilat.

The event was part of International Clean-Up Day activities, in which more than 100 countries took part.

Accompanied by two professional instructors, Sarid proudly returned with a bag filled with trash collected from a 4-meter depth. Volunteer scuba divers brought up 50 additional nylon net bags filled with garbage collected from the Red Sea floor.

Scuba divers in Aqaba cleaned up their side on Thursday.

The Red Sea cleanup is the brainchild of EcoPeace, an Israel-based regional environmental forum. EcoPeace organizer Gideon Bromberg said he was satisfied with events up to now but

pointed out "the Gulf is under threat due to an acceleration in tourist related development." "Water is like air," added an Italian tourist who scheduled his vacation to Eilat so he could dive in the event. "Water goes everywhere so it's very important to keep it clean."

Events last night included an "Environmental Happening" on the Eilat promenade with booths representing EcoPeace, Adam Tava V'Din, SPNI, the Nature Reserves Authority, Greenpeace (Israel), Eilat Love Animals, the Environment Ministry and other organizations.

This morning Egyptian school-children are scheduled to arrive in Eilat at 5 a.m. and will join their Israeli and Jordanian counterparts later in the day for a cleanup of Eilat's beaches and the dry river beds leading to the sea.

3-year-old assaulted by mother for wetting pants

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE mother of a Beersheba three-year-old who wet his pants burned his genital area with a match and apparently also bit him there as a punishment this week.

Welfare authorities received a report about the incident Wednesday. A check of the youngster by a doctor showed he was suffering from burns and bite marks around the genitals. An investigation revealed that his mother had burned him there with a match.

The boy's mother was located and detained, and the boy told investigators that: "Mommy burned me because I made in my pants." The mother said the match was only intended "to frighten" the boy, and that she had not intended to burn him.

The mother was sent for psychiatric observation, after which she was freed on bail, but a local court barred her from being left alone with her son. The boy's father promised to monitor his wife's behavior and to stay with his son. A police official said the court had decided that releasing the boy's mother "could contribute to improving the situation at home."

In July, a Beersheba man was arrested for allegedly beating his 40-day-old son, fracturing the baby's legs. The baby was given to a foster family.

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